

Junkyard Dan

ISBN #:

Title:

a series by Elise Leonard

978-1-935366-42-3	Book 1: Start of a New Dan
978-1-935366-43-0	Book 2: Dried Blood
978-1-935366-44-7	Book 3: Stolen?
978-1-935366-45-4	Book 4: Gun in the Back
978-1-935366-46-1	Book 5: Plans
978-1-935366-47-8	Book 6: Money for Nothing
978-1-935366-48-5	Book 7: Stuffed Animal
978-1-935366-49-2	Book 8: Poison, Anyone?
978-1-935366-50-8	Book 9: Picture Tells a Thousand Dollars
978-1-935366-51-5	Book 10: Wrapped Up
978-1-935366-52-2	Book 11: Finished
978-1-935366-53-9	Book 12: Bloody Knife
978-1-935366-54-6	Book 13: Taking Names and Kicking Assets
978-1-935366-55-3	Book 14: Mercy

FREE
COMPREHENSION TESTS
for books by Elise Leonard
contact Elise at
Elise.ItzBooks@gmail.com

In the highly popular **JUNKYARD DAN** series, each book gets increasingly more difficult, and characters and situations build on what happened in previous books. So please note that for the reader to enjoy and understand this series, and for the learner to get the maximum benefits this series offers in terms of increasing skill level, reading fluency and total comprehension... **THIS SERIES MUST BE READ IN ORDER!**

Yes, we know that the titles in the Junkyard Dan series are very provocative, but they get your readers to pick *up* the books! Let's not forget, your learners spend their free time playing things like *Need for Speed*, *Grand Theft Auto*, and *Call of Duty*. They are watching cool movies and cool TV shows, so they want COOL books to read. They want books they CAN read and books they CHOOSE to read. Books they are not embarrassed to be seen reading!

The **JUNKYARD DAN** series is one of our most popular series!

Readability for books 1 through 4: **Flesch-Kincaid 0.9.**

Readability for books 5 through 8: **Flesch-Kincaid 1.3 to 1.4.**

Readability for books 9 through 14: **Flesch-Kincaid 1.6 to 1.8.**

Please note that we prefer that the learners NOT know the reading levels of the books. All they need to know is that the books are cool, they *like* them, they can *read* them, and they are **enjoying** reading!

Your learners have most likely struggled with or failed at reading up to this point, so please do not humiliate them further by sharing the books' reading levels.

Itz Books

Have older struggling readers? **Not for long!**

Itz Books

641 Wilkie St, Dunedin, FL 34698

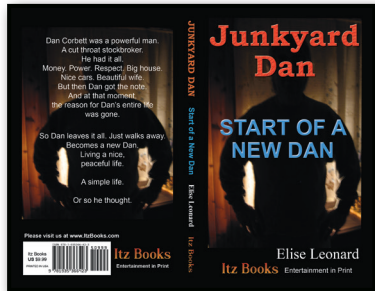
813.294.2135 FAX: 813.388.4561

purchaseorders@ItzBooks.com

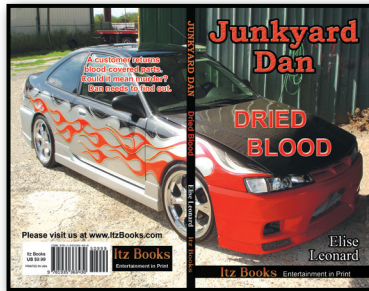
Junkyard Dan

The easy-to-read **Junkyard Dan** series is designed for older struggling, emergent and ESL readers. These books are perfect for middle-grade and high-school students, GED students and adult literacy programs. Although these books are written on a 1st- to 2nd-grade reading level, they are not babyish, boring or condescending.

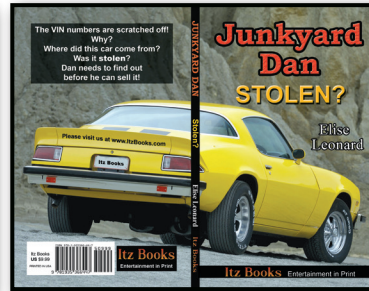
They are stories with *adult* characters, written *specifically* for the older struggling reader. All of the books by Nox Press are designed to help the older struggling reader find ease and immediate success while offering something of interest to this target learner.



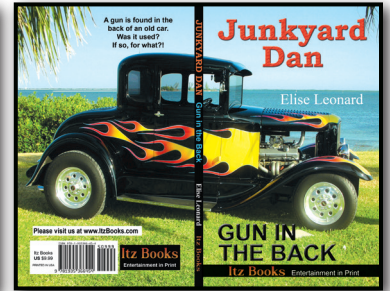
1 Start of a New Dan



2 Dried Blood

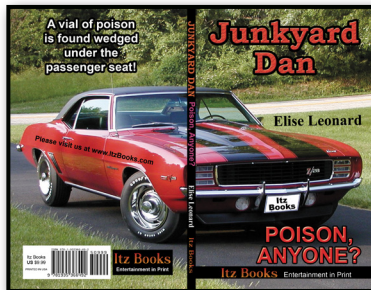


3 Stolen?

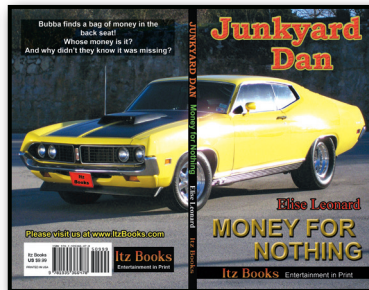


4 Gun in the Back

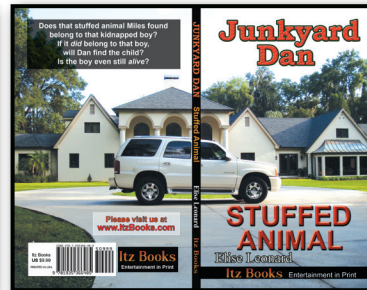
Readability for books 1 through 4: **Flesch-Kincaid 0.9**



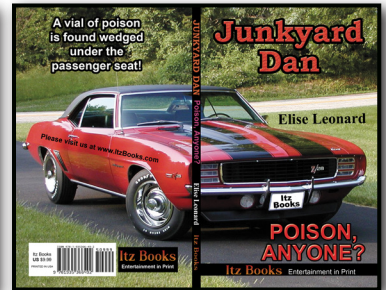
5 Plans



6 Money for Nothing

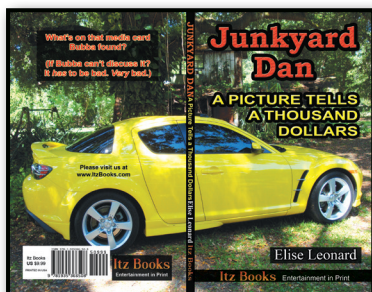


7 Stuffed Animal

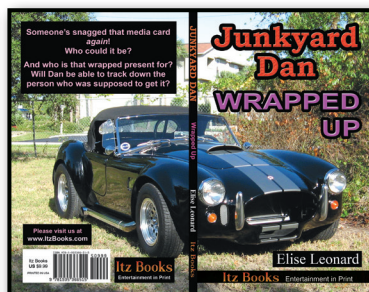


8 Poison, Anyone?

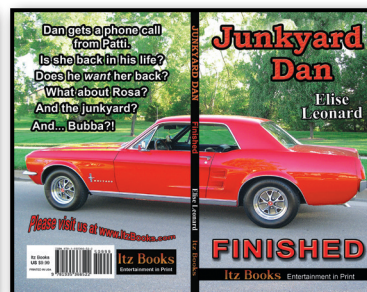
Readability for books 5 through 8: **Flesch-Kincaid 1.3 to 1.4**



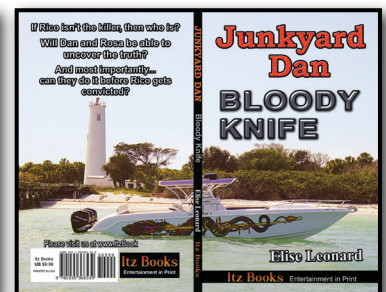
9 A Picture Tells a Thousand Dollars



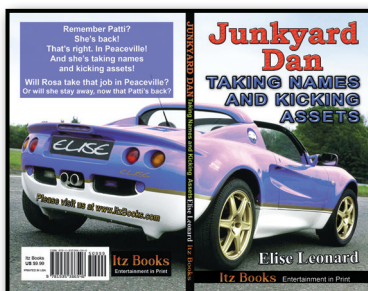
10 Wrapped Up



11 Finished



12 Bloody Knife

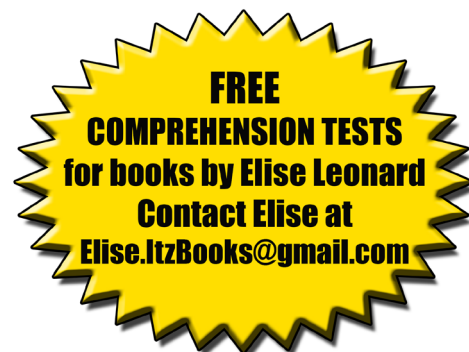


13 Taking Names and Kicking Assets



14 Mercy

Readability for books 9 through 14: **Flesch-Kincaid 1.6 to 1.8**



Junkyard Dan

The **JUNKYARD DAN** series is about a man named Dan Corbett.

Dan Corbett is a powerful man. He's a cut-throat stockbroker who has it all!

He has money, power, respect, a big house, nice cars and a beautiful wife.

But then Dan gets the note.

And at that moment, the reason for Dan's entire life is gone.

So Dan leaves it all. Just walks away.

Dan becomes a new Dan, living a nice peaceful life. A simple life.

Or so he thought.

Discussion Guide and Writing Prompts:

- Why does Dan want to start a new life?
- How would you react to what Patti did, if you were in Dan's shoes?
(Please note: the words "kill" or "murder" cannot be in your response.) ☺
- List three good things about Dan.
- Do you think Dan is happy in Peaceville? Why or why not?
- Do you think Dan is a good man? Why or why not?
- Who is your favorite character in the Junkyard Dan series? Why?
- What does "taking the high road" mean?

Get FREE comprehension tests for every book by Elise Leonard!

Go to **www.EliseLeonardBooks.com** to see the books.

(Send an email to **Elise.ItzBooks@gmail.com** to get the tests and answer keys.)

All teachers, educators and tutors have permission to use the FREE comprehension tests from Elise Leonard as standalone tests or as "teacher-entered" tests in AR or SRC! programs.

Itz Books

Have older struggling readers? **Not for long!**

Itz Books

641 Wilkie St, Dunedin, FL 34698

813.294.2135 FAX: 813.388.4561

purchaseorders@ItzBooks.com

Junkyard Dan

All of the words below are found on the first two pages of the first book in the Junkyard Dan series:
Start of a New Dan.

Find the following words in the word search:



cars clothes devotion driving
nature respect signs woman
flowers heart house jewelry loyalty



L	C	L	O	T	H	E	S	I	N	G	H	Q	M
V	B	T	B	T	N	A	T	U	R	E	R	C	P
L	B	Z	F	C	W	R	E	S	P	E	C	T	L
N	K	J	R	R	M	Q	R	R	A	V	X	S	V
X	O	E	K	O	D	R	I	V	I	N	G	U	M
B	F	F	J	J	A	H	O	U	S	E	N	X	D
L	O	W	A	E	J	H	C	A	R	S	H	Z	E
O	Y	O	S	W	B	O	F	H	E	B	C	B	V
Y	M	A	I	E	Y	O	Y	E	Z	G	K	H	O
A	I	B	G	L	M	T	C	A	T	S	L	F	T
L	T	Y	N	R	K	K	F	R	Q	J	A	L	I
T	B	A	S	Y	H	A	K	T	U	T	R	T	O
Y	I	F	L	O	W	E	R	S	Y	Y	I	P	N
M	W	O	M	A	N	O	E	F	B	P	B	Y	B

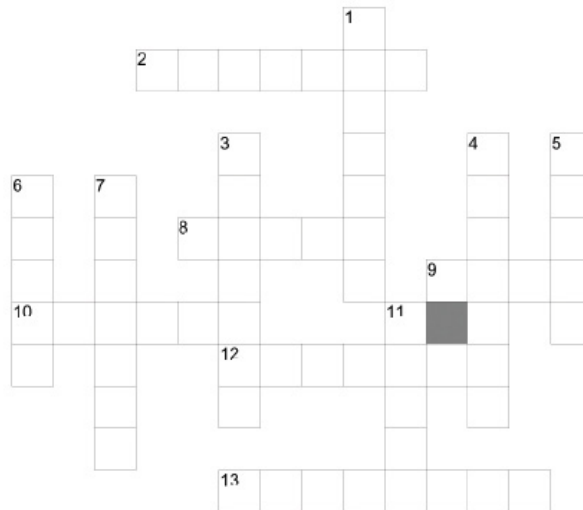


Copyright © Elise Leonard | Itz Books | AS PER ELISE LEONARD, DUPLICATION OF THIS PAGE IS PERMITTED

Itz Books

Junkyard Dan

All of the words below are found on the first two pages of the first book in the Junkyard Dan series: *Start of a New Dan*. See if you can figure out this crossword puzzle by the hints.



ACROSS

2. "Bling." [Do I have to say more?] Okay. Most of it is shiny. It's usually expensive. And it can be found on necks, ears, fingers, toes and sometimes near the belly button area. [I said SOMETIMES!]
8. An adult female. Or, if you still can't figure it out, there's a "man" and a...
9. You drive them. They can be cool or junkers, or somewhere in between.
10. It makes you think of the sky and earth and rivers and stuff like that. You can put the word "Mother" in front of it, and not get into BIG trouble.
12. It means, "to have high regard for." There was a song with this word as the title sung by Aretha Franklin. (As a separate assignment, try to find the song on the Internet and listen to it. It's a good song!)
13. You want to find a mate who has this. It's sort of like great feelings of love.

DOWN

1. Dan did a lot of this. Hint: You need a car to do it. And the word is in the first sentence of the book.
3. These are things that smell really good. You give them to someone on Valentine's Day. (Not chocolates. But chocolates do smell really good as well! But it's not chocolates. Stop trying to fit the letters for "chocolates" in the boxes! In fact, stop thinking about chocolates!)
4. Dogs have it. Cats, not so much. They're too independent. Some men have it to a woman. Dan had it for Patti.
5. A thing most people live in. Hint: not an igloo, hut, or a pod. I said MOST people!
6. Things on the roads that tell you where to go and how to drive. Too many people ignore them.
7. You wear these. Or, if you're a nudist, you don't.
11. You draw this with your initials (and someone else's) inside. It can also have an attack. It can throb, ache, or burn, as well. If you don't want it to burn, try not to eat spicy food!

cars
clothes
devotion
driving
nature
respect
signs
woman
flowers
heart
house
jewelry
loyalty



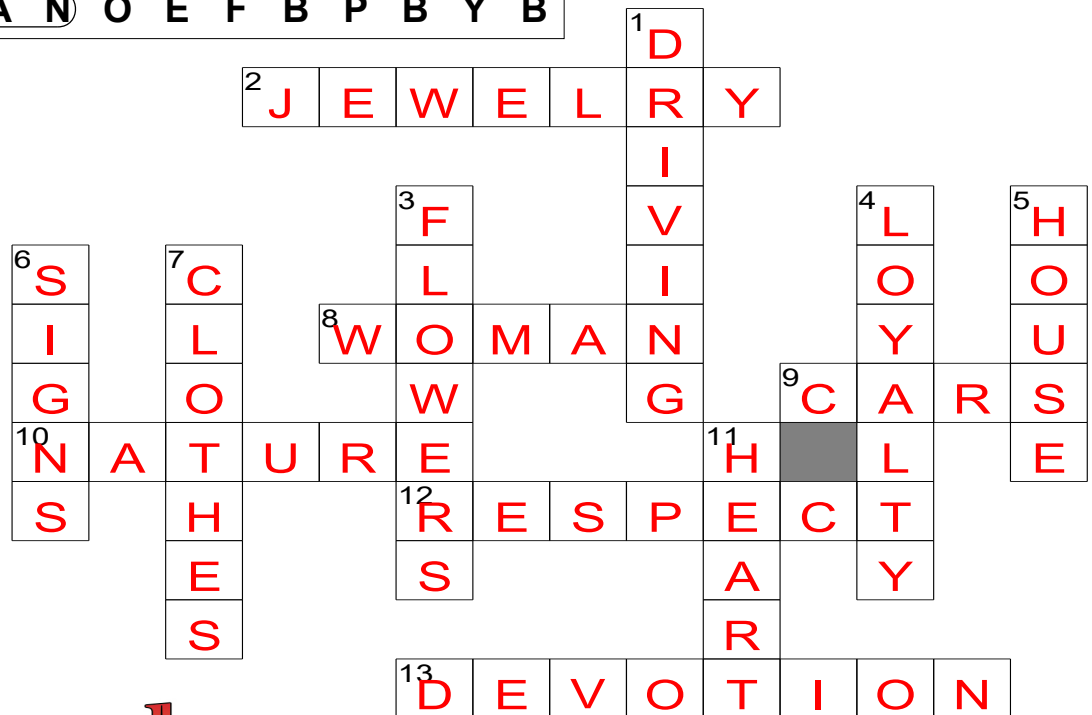
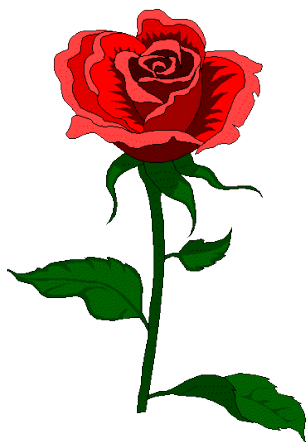
Junkyard Dan

Answer Keys for word search and crossword puzzle:



Word list for both activities:

cars
clothes
devotion
driving
nature
respect
signs
woman
flowers
heart
house
jewelry
loyalty



Itz Books

www.EliseLeonardBooks.com

Copyright © Elise Leonard | Itz Books

AS PER ELISE LEONARD, DUPLICATION OF THIS PAGE IS PERMITTED

About the “freaky” punctuation:

Yes, I realize that I take a lot of poetic license with the punctuation in my books. Please understand that that is done ON PURPOSE and with a very good (and logical) reason. My books are written for the struggling, emergent and ESL reader. They are 100-page books written on a first- to second-grade reading level, so this target learnership can find immediate success and enjoyment while still being able to read them! [If your students were reading on a 4th- to 8th-grade reading level, they would not NEED books written on a 1st- to 2nd-grade reading level. They need small, concise sentences that are easy for them to read and understand.]

As with sports or playing an instrument, all the instruction and lessons are fine and dandy, but if you don’t actually DO it, you will not increase your skill or fluency! Reading is exactly the same, and, unfortunately, there’s not much out there for the emergent, struggling or ESL reader to read that’s ON an emergent 1st- and 2nd-grade reading level. Particularly anything these readers WANT to read. :-) My **Junkyard Dan** series and my **LEADER** series address that need and are all written by me - a former inner-city educator who had a 100% success rate with NYC inner-city kids and the NY State Regents exams (which are on par with an SAT). All of my books are something these students CAN read and are something they WANT to read.

And as we all know, if you want to teach the struggling reader how to read... they actually have to READ!

When your learners are reading on age or grade level, THEN you can be more precise with them about punctuation and sentence structure; but until they are able to perform at that level, educators will only frustrate their learners and make them feel inadequate by insisting that they read on a reading level these struggling learners are not yet able to comprehend or absorb.

That is why the punctuation is as it is in some of my books. It is for the struggling learners’ ultimate success.

Bottom line... my books **work**, and struggling readers **love** them! ~Elise

Elise Leonard’s Mission:

Elise Leonard believes that reading shouldn’t be a privilege, it should be a right! That’s why she writes cool, fun, interesting books for struggling, emergent and English as a second language (ESL) adolescent and adult learners.

Elise believes that literacy gives us power and a voice. So she wants your students to read up and speak out! She also thinks that *everyone* deserves a bright future, and she believes that one can’t *have* a very bright future when one is illiterate or low-literate. Her mission is to foster a love for reading and learning in every individual, one book at a time.

Empowering older struggling readers is her passion. She believes in the transformative power of literacy and strives to provide engaging, accessible books for all. That is why she has written a diverse collection of high-interest titles to foster a love for reading in adolescent and adult emergent, struggling, and ESL readers.

About Elise Leonard:



Elise Leonard has been educating adolescents and adults for the past 30+ years.

She has a 100% success rate, and has been able to teach *every single person* who crossed her path how to read! It didn’t matter if they had Dyslexia, were learning English as a second language or were just under-educated. *Every* student learned how to read with Elise. You will hear her often say: “Teaching reading is not rocket science. Just teach your students the alphabet, the sounds each letter makes, and then get them reading right away!” Her books, although written for adolescents and adults, are written on an emergent reading level so your learners can find immediate success and enjoyment! She also says: “Give students something they WANT to read, on a reading level they CAN read, and they’ll READ!” 😊

A personal message to the educators, teachers, tutors, media specialists, administrators and librarians who use my books:

First and foremost, thank you. Thank you for caring about the many struggling learners across our great nation. I've dedicated my entire lifetime to serving our nation's adolescent and adult low-literate, illiterate and ESL learners, and besides loving what I do, I love the people I do it for! I know you're not doing what you do for the money or the glamour, because as we all know... there's not much of either of those things associated with what we do. ☺ You are most likely doing what you do because you firmly believe that literacy is important. Literacy IS important. The lives you are impacting through helping your learners find literacy are many. Besides the learner, you are helping their spouses, their children (present or future), their neighbors, their employers, and all citizens of this country. For that alone, I thank you. I also feel the need to personally thank each and every one of you for helping me with my quest to end low-literacy and illiteracy in America. I hope that my books will help you with your honorable and worthy endeavor. I also hope that my books will help you have fun while teaching this target learnership. I firmly believe that learning should be fun and exciting, and have tried to make books and materials for you and your learners that spark laughter, thought and a sense of wonder.

Please help me help your learners realize that reading *can* be fun and exciting.

And please have fun with my books, remembering that every series, with the exception of the **LEADER** series, has to be read in order so your learners follow and comprehend the intricate story line and so your learners keep building their reading muscles, since the books get increasingly more difficult as each series progresses.

And yes, I know. I *do* take quite a bit of poetic license with the punctuation (particularly in the beginning books of each series) to GET the books on these easy-to-read, emergent reading levels, but THESE BOOKS WORK, and the struggling reader LOVES them. The reading levels for each series increase at a rate where the reader can't even tell. Yet, the reader WILL notice that their reading scores and fluency are increasing - but have no idea why! ☺

As a fun (FREE) suggestion of something great to do with this target learner, I would like to suggest a project that was introduced to me a long time ago by Laura Brainard, a media specialist at Lakeview Middle School in Orlando, FL. She does "digital booktalks" (like movie trailers for books) with her school's struggling and ESL learners. Digital booktalks are a GREAT (FREE!) thing to do with your learners. They have to read the books, come up with a 1- to 4-minute script, do the story-boarding, use a video camera to film it, then they have to use computers to edit it, add music and titles and all sorts of OTHER fun stuff using Microsoft's Movie Maker (which most teachers don't realize comes FREE with Windows), and then they can use the computer to burn their digital booktalk to a 10-cent CD and keep it for life, and show it off to their friends! It's a great project that includes reading, writing, filming, editing, graphic art design, computer skills (both software and hardware), etc. ☺ And they'll not only do it willingly, they'll totally enjoy doing it! [School and learning will never have been so much fun for your struggling learners!]

I have spent my lifetime fully dedicated to breaking down barriers to reading and fostering a love for books in all individuals, regardless of their reading level or language proficiency. I sincerely thank you, from the bottom of my heart, for joining me in this exciting literary adventure!

~Elise Leonard

Itz Books
Entertainment in Print

More books by Elise Leonard:

Itz Books

LEADER

What does it take to be a good leader?

For that matter, what does it take to be a good person, in general?

HONOR - dedicated to the Marines

COURAGE - dedicated to the Navy

RESPECT - dedicated to the Patriot Guard Riders

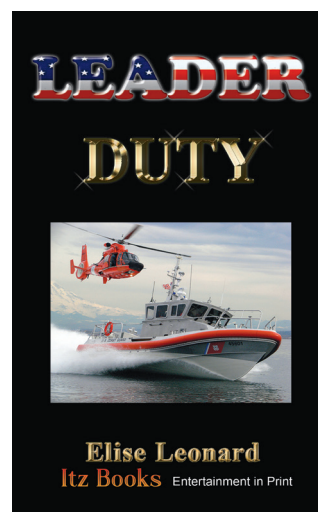
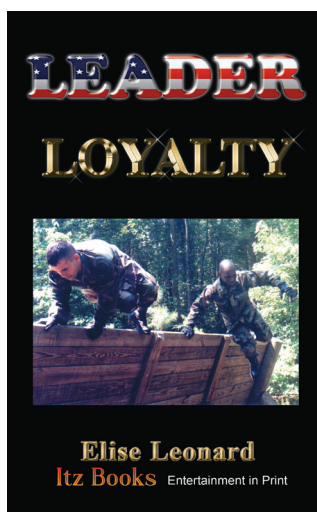
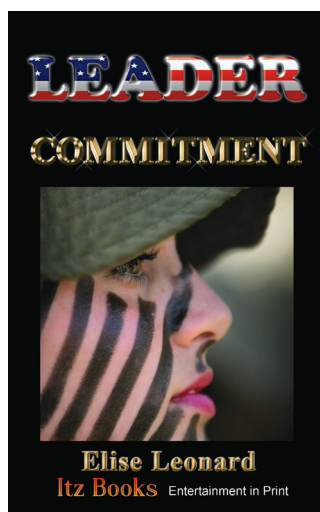
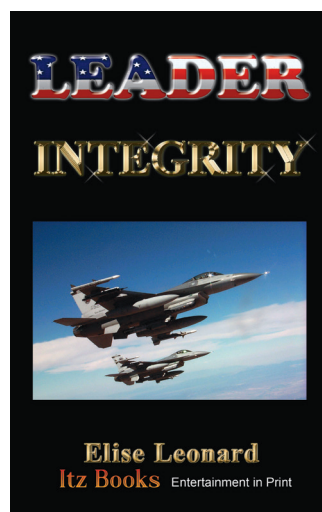
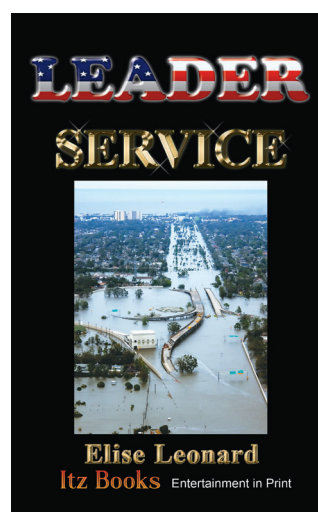
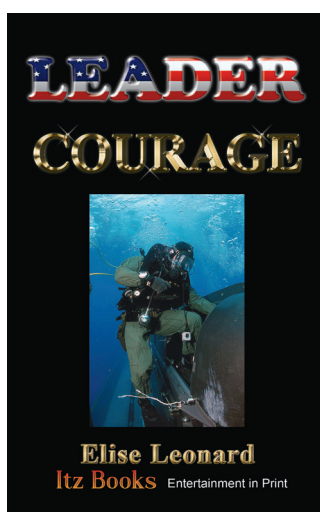
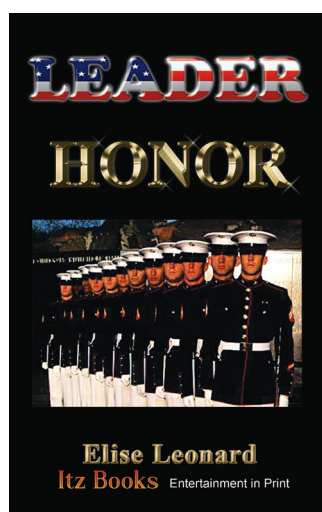
SERVICE - dedicated to the National Guard

INTEGRITY - dedicated to the Air Force

COMMITMENT - dedicated to the Army

LOYALTY - dedicated to the family & friends of our service people

DUTY - dedicated to the Coast Guard



Readability for ALL 8 books: **Flesch-Kincaid 1.0**

THIS IS THE **ONLY SERIES** BY ELISE LEONARD
THAT **DOES NOT** HAVE TO BE READ IN ORDER.

ALL 8 BOOKS CAN BE BOUGHT AS A COMPLETE SET.



Itz Books

641 Wilkie St, Dunedin, FL 34698

813.294.2135 FAX: 813.388.4561

purchaseorders@ItzBooks.com

Elise.ItzBooks@gmail.com

EliseLeonardBooks.com