

KEYNOTES

The newsletter of the Romance Writers of America New York City Chapter #6

MARCH 2015

NEXT CHAPTER MEETING

Saturday, March 7, 12 noon

TRS, 40 Exchange Place, 3rd Floor

PITCHING WORKSHOP

Speakers: Mary Altman and Cat Clyne
Editors at Sourcebooks

Learn how to woo an editor by crafting a slam-dunk pitch and hook for your romance novel or series.

Cat and Mary acquire single title (75,000-120,000 words)

Romance for Sourcebooks in all subgenres, including contemporary, romantic suspense, paranormal, historical, and erotic romance. They're always on the lookout for unique, engaging stories with a strong hook that can be summarized in one-two sentences.

Mary Altman was born in South Carolina and still considers herself a Charlestonian at heart. Her love of reading came from an early obsession with *THE HOBBIT* and *THE LION, THE WITCH, AND THE WARDROBE*, and she's only gotten geekier over the years. She has a passion for travel and lives in a tragically hip corner of Brooklyn with her fiancé and an overflowing TBR pile. She's looking for unique, engaging single-title romance, erotic romance and new adult novels.

Cat Clyne worked in academia and magazine publishing before joining Sourcebooks in 2010. Cat acquires single title romance in all subgenres. She is looking for stories with a slam-dunk hook and curl-her-toes romance. Cat has a fondness for damaged heroes and a well-written band of brothers bond. Born in Germany to diplomat parents, Cat has a Master's degree from New York University and lives in Brooklyn.

About Sourcebooks

Sourcebooks' mission is to reach as many people as possible with books that will enlighten their lives. Sourcebooks is the country's largest woman-owned independent publishing house, known for its sales and marketing, as well as a strong focus on building authors' careers.♥



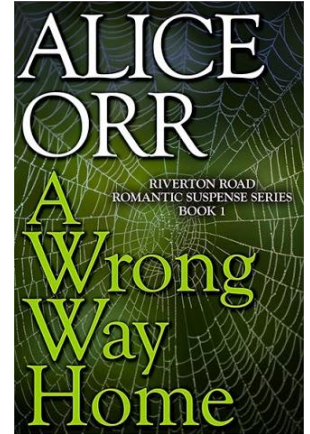
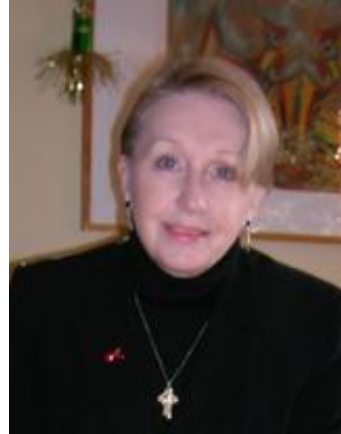
Mary Altman



Cat Clyne

AUTHOR OF THE MONTH: ALICE ORR

Alice Orr is the author of 11 novels, two novellas, a memoir and NO MORE REJECTIONS: 50 Secrets to Writing a Manuscript That Sells. She is a former book editor and literary agent. Now she lives her dream of writing full-time, especially romantic suspense fiction. Alice also leads workshops on writing for publication and/or pleasure. She has two grown children and two perfect grandchildren. Alice lives with her husband Jonathan in New York City. Visit her at www.aliceorrbooks.com; Facebook: AliceOrrWriter; Twitter: @AliceOrrBooks; or her Amazon page: Amazon.com/author/AliceOrr. Write her at aliceorrbooks@gmail.com or at POB 6224, Long Island City, NY 11106. Alice would love to hear from you.♥

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2015 CHAPTER CALENDAR

Apr 11	May 2	Jun 6	Jul 11	Aug 1
Sep 12	Oct 3	Nov 7	Dec 5	

KEYNOTES DEADLINE

Send articles to keynoteseditor@gmail.com by the 15th of the month. All articles must be typed and up to 500 words.

RWA/NYC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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 Website: Ursula Renée

ATTENTION: The Board welcomes all comments/suggestions/etc. Please send emails to info@rwanyc.com.

MEETING INFO: RWA/NYC meets the first Saturday of each month. Meetings are held at TRS,40 Exchange Place, NYC. 12 noon. Membership is at the discretion of the Board. Annual dues are \$40. Make all checks payable to RWA/NYC. There will be a \$20 fee on returned checks.

RWA/NYC

PO Box 3722, Grand Central Station
 New York, NY 10163
www.rwanyc.com
info@rwanyc.com
rwanycblogginginthebigapple.blogspot.com

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: FALLING IN LOVE WITH ROMANCE
BY URSULA RENÉE



I have given credit to the members of Romance Writers of America/New York City, Inc. for the support they have given me during my journey to becoming a published author. They encouraged me to submit my manuscripts, even when I was in a funk from a rejection. However, had it not been for Johanna Lindsey, I would have never considered a career as a romance author.

As a teenager, I enjoyed young adult romance novels, particularly the books in the Sunfire series.

Each novel in the series was set during a historical event or an important period in history. The heroine had to find the strength to face the trials and follow her heart.

When I outgrew the young adult romances, I tried the adult romances. However, I could not relate to the idea of the everyday women finding their happily-ever-after with a gorgeous man. That was not how real world worked.

One evening, in search of an escape from the real world, I flipped through the stack of romance novels my supervisor gave me. Though I not thrilled to read the genre, I was desperate for something to read on the trip home. I finally chose Johanna Lindsey's *Hearts Aflame*, figuring I'd be able to tolerate the book until I get home, where I'd exchange it for one of the classic or western novels in my bookcase. However, once I started reading I could not put the book down.

I was sucked into the adventures of the strong-willed Kristen Haardrad and her hero, Royce of Wyndhurst. I was pulled me into another world where I stayed into the end.

Once I finished the book, I rushed to the bookstore to snatch up other novels by Johanna Lindsey. I eventually started reading novels by Jude Deveraux and Julie Garwood. Each author offered me more than the boy meets girl, boy loses girl, boy gets girl again story. They provided adventure for my active imagination.

Over the years I have learned to appreciate a happily-ever-after where the good guy gets the person of his dreams. Of course, I still need an adventure (whether it's a journey across the plains to the west, a law official fighting villains or a shapeshifter saving the world from destruction).♥

Thanks to the support and encouragement of the members of RWA/NYC, Ursula signed her first publishing contract in 2013 for her historical romance, SWEET JAZZ. As President of RWA/NYC, Ursula wants to offer the same encouragement and guidance to other RWA members. Visit her at www.ursularenee.com.



WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

La Quette Holmes
Monica Jones
Wendy LaCapra
Ivy Lofberg

**MINUTES: FEBRUARY 7
BY SECRETARY SHIRLEY KELLY**

Board Members Present:

President Ursula Renée Shand
Vice Presidents Kate McMurray, Vanessa Peters
Treasurer Tamara Lynch
Secretary Shirley Kelly
Past President Maria Ferrer

Committee Members Present:

Blog/Social Media - Maria Ferrer
Publicity - Jeanine McAdam, Michael Molloy
Website - Ursula Renée Shand

Agenda:

President Ursula Renée Shand opened the meeting at 12:15 by greeting the members. Next she outlined the meeting. Our Author of the Month is Julia Tagan. Kate Boehme, Taylor V. Donovan, and Kate McMurray will comprise our LBGT panel. Ursula said Keynotes will no longer be sent via email. Members can read it on the Chapter website. She had last year's time capsule submissions for those members who weren't at the January meeting, and the new time capsule for those who wanted to submit their goals for 2015. The January General Meeting Minutes weren't accepted, because no one read them.

Treasurer Tamara Lynch said we have approximately \$8,600 in the bank.

Secretary Shirley Kelly said we have 115 members. All members have to renew by March 7th. Members can either renew online or fill out a membership form which they can get from her.

Ursula said after March 7th, she'll send out General Loop invitations to those who aren't on the Loop. She asked the members to let her know if they have problems with any of the Loops. She said we need a PAN member to run the Published Loop, which deals with information regarding the publishing industry. We may have a moderator for the Craft Loop. Mimi Pizzaro Logsdon runs the Critique Loop.

Vice President Kate McMurray said the date for the 2015 Golden Apple Awards hasn't been set. She encouraged all members to attend the event. She asked everyone to start thinking of the nominations and to email her with names at kate@katemcmurray.com. She said she'll put the

categories on the General Loop. Ulyana Dejneka said she has items from last year that she'll give to Kate.

Vice President Vanessa Peters announced the winner of the 2014 Kathryn Hayes "We Need a Hero" contest as well as the 2nd and 3rd place winners. She announced the 2015 contest will have a new theme "When Sparks Fly". The contest will open on June 1st. She sent around a sign up sheet asking for volunteers to judge the contest. Anyone interested can email her at v.peters.619@gmail.com .

Ursula said the Chapter Retreat will be held the weekend of April 17th at the Inn at Ocean Grove. The price is \$99 per night, which includes breakfast. To encourage attendance, she's thinking of holding a critique session on Saturday. She asked members to email her if they have other ideas.

Jeanine McAdam of the Publicity Committee said the Romance Festival will be held on June 20th at the Morris-Jumel Mansion from 1-4:30. The Pub Committee is working hard on getting foot traffic to the Festival. They're working on lining up speakers. Jeanine also plans to register the Chapter this week for the Brooklyn Book Festival, which will be held on September 27th. Michael Molloy of the Publicity Committee said he needs volunteers to work on both events. He said he'll post a notice on the General Loop.

Ursula said anyone needing their link fixed on the Member Author page should let her know. She also said anyone wanting to post an event on the Calendar of Events should let her know.

Ursula said RWA National has created a writing challenge for members called "The End". To help members meet the 20,000 word requirement needed to retain membership, they're asking people to write 2,000 words a month from February to December. At the end of the year, they'll give out gifts to people who have completed the challenge. Ursula wants to challenge our members and suggested using the Procrastinators Loop as a source of inspiration. Jeanine McAdam said she'll run the loop. Ursula said our Chapter will give out small gifts to everyone who completes the challenge.

Ursula said anyone with ideas on how our Chapter can participate at the National Conference should let her know.

Katana Collins offered to look for a new venue for our May brunch.

Ursula said to be careful of scams. People are offering services they're not qualified for, or they're making up their titles and qualifications.

Kwana Jackson said she, Alyssa Cole, Lena Hart, and Falguni Kothari are conducting a workshop on multi-cultural romance at the National Conference. They'll also be providing a resource list for authors who want to self-publish.



The meeting adjourned at 12:40 p.m.♥

ALL SCARLET ALL THE TIME
BY ALICE ORR



Scarlet O'Hara may have been a bad influence on the way I experienced real life romance in my younger days. A dark, slick brute carries you to bed and pretty much rapes you. So you fall straight off in love with him. My first husband got me over that screwed up way of thinking because he pretty much was that brute. But Scarlet has never stopped being an influence on my romance with life.

The other GONE WITH THE WIND scene I'll never forget – besides Rhett hefting Scarlett up that wide mansion staircase with her dark red dressing gown trailing – is the scene at the end of the first act just before the Intermission. I'll bet you remember it too. Fist balled up tight, clutching what looks like a grimy radish root, Scarlett cries toward heaven.

“God as my witness, I'll never be hungry again.”

I heard that and knew it for what it was – a warrior cry. Even as a little girl I understood somehow that this was the spirit I'd need in life – a warrior spirit.

So I set out to grow me one. Now here I am decades later in a very different century but the warrior spirit of Scarlet is still with me. She's with me as I strike out on a new scary exciting adventure.

I've written my first novel in sixteen years. I've put it out in the world as Book 1 of the Riverton Road Romantic Suspense Series from Alice Orr Books. I've created another will-do warrior heroine named Kara Cartwright and called her story A WRONG WAY HOME. That story and Kara debut at the March 7th RWA/NYC chapter meeting where I will be Author of the Month. I thank you all for that opportunity and honor.

This book may be called A WRONG WAY HOME but I know it is the right way to go. Because the warrior spirit of Scarlet in me says this. As far as my appetite for the writing work I love is concerned – “I will never go hungry again.”♥

Alice Orr is the author of 11 novels, two novellas, a memoir and NO MORE REJECTIONS: 50 Secrets to Writing a Manuscript That Sells. She is a former book editor and literary agent. Now she lives her dream of writing full-time, especially romantic suspense fiction. Alice also leads workshops on writing for publication and/or pleasure. She has two grown children and two perfect grandchildren. Alice lives with her husband Jonathan in New York City. Visit her at www.aliceorrbooks.com.

**FOUR GROUNDBREAKING HEROINES:
HOW *SEX AND THE CITY* CHANGED ROMANCE
BY BRIANA MACPERRY**



Season one, episode one, scene one: Carrie Bradshaw, the narrator and main protagonist of the popular HBO show, *Sex and The City*, sits at her desk and types up the premise for the remainder of not only the episode, but the entire series, "Welcome to the age of un-innocence. No one has breakfast at Tiffany's or affairs to remember, instead, we have breakfast at seven am and affairs we try to forget as quickly as possible. Self-protection and closing the deal are paramount. Cupid has flown the co-op... It's like the riddle of the Sphinx, why are there so many great unmarried woman, and no great unmarried men?"

As romance writers, we all know what qualifies our genre; a happy union, a sense of security, a feeling of hope and faith that alls well that ends well. But in a day and age where the word "romance" is frequently considered synonymous with "disillusioned," how does it survive? Ashton Kutcher—dashing actor, *Punked* producer, and youthful ex-husband to Demi Moore—said it best: "Vulnerability is the essence of romance. It's the art of being uncalculated, the willingness to look foolish, the courage to say, 'This is me, and I'm interested in you enough to show you my flaws with the hope that you may embrace me for all that I am but, more important, all that I am not.'"

I ask you, romance writers (and readers), whom in your life best fits this description? The strapping antagonist in your next small-town trilogy? Or the woman and friend who sees your guts spilled on the page, and is still willing to read drafts one through fifteen? Did you know studies have found readers of romance experience more frequent orgasms than non-readers? Now, consider whom we really have to thank for that.

Today's real romance lies between us romance writers, willing to write about love, sex, and relationships with scintillating abandon, hoping to spark both the loins and imaginations of women across the globe. But how do we summon the courage to do this? Who opened the door for such a profound intimacy to occur?

In 1994, Candace Bushnell, (then 35 years old), began writing her column in the *New York Observer*. In 1996, her writings became a book, and producer Darren Star (*Beverly Hills, 90210*; *Melrose Place*) bought the rights, and took the idea to HBO. In 1998, the show, *Sex And The City*, debuted to 3.7 million viewers, and that audience grew fast.

Entertainment Weekly has quoted Bushnell as saying, "I never envisioned it for the screen. The column was never meant for a mass audience; it was just for the *New York Observer* readership, which is a very select group." Bushnell's critics have said her original book portrayed female relationships as more competitive than cooperative, but the flower that blossomed from the seed had quite a different aroma altogether.

Natasha Walter, author of *THE NEW FEMINISM*, states, "This show is intensely idealistic about the way that women can get unconditional love from one another." Kim Akass, lecturer in

film series at London Metropolitan University adds, "Women now have a language with which to talk about their experiences and their friendships. It's almost given them permission to have female friendships that are more important than anything else."

Against a backdrop of trendy restaurants and nightclub openings, dressed in large flower accessories and exorbitantly expensive shoes, Miranda, Charlotte, Samantha and Carrie meet for regular support group sessions, discussing their experiences of sex and relationships. Each character represents an extreme female archetype, and many women relate to different elements in all four of them. Though the show sometimes dealt with in-depth and emotional subjects in a comical way, the subjects discussed on the show were always easy to watch and understand.

In her article, *Sex And The City – The Cultural Impact*, Marie Abbott asserts, "The main message that the show wanted to put across was simply pushing women to be themselves, and since the show was first aired in 1998 something has shifted in women across the globe... They treasure their girlfriends without feeling at fault for what used to be seen as 'gossiping'."

This shift is significant when we consider the impact of other popular heroines, such as Bridget Jones. Bridget Jones, a lonely, self-hating woman who is catastrophically clumsy and irresistibly loveable, mirrors for many the experience of being a woman in a patriarchal society, fed a steady diet of Disney fairy tales, since birth. Critics of *Sex And The City* have claimed the show is no better.

In her article, *Why Men Hate Sex and the City*, Laurie Penny points out, "*Sex and the City* sets itself up in cheeky opposition to male power without for a second questioning the premise of patriarchy. It conjures a dynamic in which men are at once the enemy and the object of desire... This willful elision of men, their concerns and their needs, must be a large part of why male viewers find *Sex and the City* so uncomfortable." However, Penny goes on to concede, "It is also precisely the same elision that women experience watching countless films. If men don't like *Sex and the City*, they can always change the channel and find something else. Women don't have that option."

Still, fans of the show feel the emphasis on female bonding outshines the show's "shallow, sexist enterprise." Catherine Redfern, editor of the webzine, the F-word, states, "Bridget Jones was always whining on about how fat she was, and, although the *Sex and the City* characters are really slim, they sit around eating pizza and not apologizing for that. Bridget Jones is always on her own, talking about how she'll never find a man, and though they do talk a lot about men, the philosophy is that though the men will change, their friendship will be there forever." Lynne Segal, professor of psychology and gender studies at Birkbeck College, agrees, "*Sex and the City*



has been a sort of post-feminist empowerment of women, up to a point. And that point is, that all they really talked about was men. But what feminism was in part about was friendship between women, which is what *Sex and the City* shows."

Most notably, the benefits of strong female bonds are evidenced by an open and accepting attitude towards heterosexual female sexuality. The show focused on real life issues and scenarios that real women can relate to. Not only did it provide insight into how women think, feel and talk, it gave advice and raised questions. Akass states, "I think it's fantastic that women now feel comfortable talking about vibrators, whether you choose to buy a Rampant Rabbit or not."

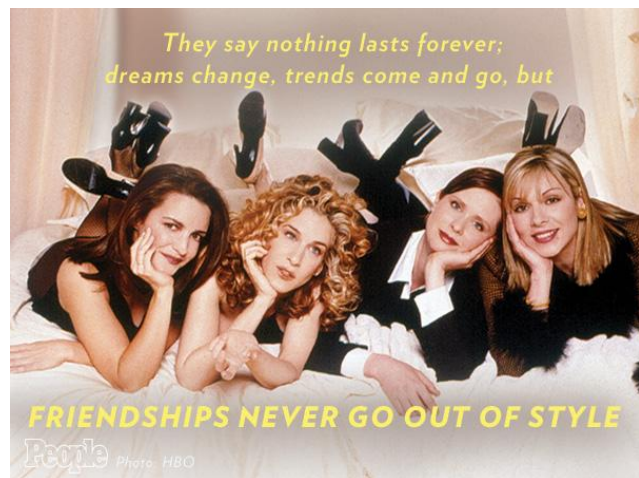
Furthermore, the most sexually confident and active member of the group was also the oldest. In one memorable episode, Samantha proudly announces, "I'm forty fucking five and proud of it!" Incidentally, she also has the youngest and most physically attractive boyfriend, an empathetic and loving partner who shaves his head and cares for his feisty cougar while she battles cancer.

The show also challenges women to question their deeply held mythologies about Prince Charming and marriage. For example, Charlotte, perpetually in search of Mr. Right, finally manages to marry him, only to find him impotent. In a strange twist of fate, her divorce lawyer--a considerably less attractive, balding man--wins her over with studly endurance.

Additionally, when Carrie's long-term boyfriend, Aidan, asks her to marry him, she compulsively vomits. Later, when her stable, Russian boyfriend asks her to move with him to Paris, she refuses him in favor of a notoriously unpredictable ex. Whether these behaviors are the result of commitment issues, or an aversion to marriage as an institution, it exhibits a woman staying true to herself, discovering long-term relationships are defined in a variety of ways. In one particular episode, when Carrie's Manolo Blahniks are stolen at a party, she states "I have spent money on wedding presents and on other people's children and no one has ever celebrated the fact that I am single."

She may be single, but she is not alone, and therein lays the point. So the next time you have a glass of wine with your crit partner, or attend your local RWA chapter meeting, remember as you are dreaming up your next Knight in Shining Armor, the most romantic relationship you will ever have is with the woman sitting right next to you. ♥

For several years, Briana MacPerry has practiced as a Licensed and Board Certified Creative Arts Therapist in New York City, working predominantly with traumatized women and addiction. Currently, she teaches graduate level thesis writing and works for a brain research and diagnostic facility. When she is not corralling her four-year old son, she is slaving away at her passion's pursuit. To learn more, please visit her blog at www.brianamacperry.wordpress.com, or follow her on twitter @macperrytweets.



NORA...OF COURSE
BY JOHN LOVELADY WRITING AS TROY STORM

There have been a number of romance writers who have had an impact on my writing. The prolific Georgette Heyer and the irrepressible pink queen, Barbara Cartland, were among the first. Romances were just the thing a harried young husband and dad could not only bond with his wife over, but helped keep the romance alive and thriving with the promise there was always a glowing rainbow at the end of what might sometimes be a bumpy road.

Susan Elizabeth Phillips, funny and bubbly, and dead serious, speaking at an RWA convention, gave me the guts to believe more in myself than in an often heartless system. "Of course you send out multiple submissions," she challenged. "We haven't got time to wait around. Be civil. Be professional. But move on! There'll always be another agent." Bless her.

The most empowering mentor, however, I encountered at one of the annual book festivals organized by the Los Angeles Times on a panel of popular fiction writers. Nora Roberts was attractive, intelligent and more than held her own among a group of slightly patronizing women's fiction, crime and mystery novelists. She knew what she was writing and for whom she was writing and had no apologies whatsoever to make for romance in all its guises.

She was astonishingly prolific, had alternative writing personas for different genres and looked on writing not only as a skilled craft but as a business. To me, she personified everything a good romance writer stood for and to this day I use her as a beacon of constancy when I'm feeling uninspired, lazy or just plain lost in a manuscript.

Having been published for over twenty years, I've learned what I'm good at and what I have to struggle to produce. The effort to forge a manuscript that entertains, excites and satisfies is not only an honorable one, but one worth pursuing. The young husband and father never had to write in order to put bread on the table. My writing began as a transitioning adventure. It gives me great pleasure when I feel I've produced a good story, well told. As a result, the writing is paramount, the publishing important and the selling not so. My bad. But we all write for different reasons and different levels of satisfaction.

The writing game has changed enormously since I began and will continue to evolve as even more original ways of disseminating our work are developed. When I began, I couldn't have imagined the Kindle being a gleam in anyone's eye. The ability to download books from your local library would have been science fiction to flummox even Jane Anne Krentz.



And through it all Nora has plowed on. On her blog, she even occasionally strikes back at a rude reviewer, demanding respect and civility. We romance writers are not to be trifled with. We have something worth saying. We have stories to share that are silly, exciting, uplifting and joyous. It is an honorable struggle. Thanks for having my back, Ms Roberts.♥

Troy Storm has had several hundred short stories published in various collections. His erotic ménage series -- HAVING IT ALL (MMF), GETTING IT ALL (FFM), WANTING MORE (MMM), and NEVER TOO MUCH (FFF) – is published by Secret Cravings Publishing.

MEMBER NEWS

Alyssa Cole's new post apocalypse series from Carina Press. RADIO SILENCE debut Feb 2.

Wendy Corsi Staub's THE BLACK WIDOW debut on Feb 24. It's book 3 of her trio of social networking thrillers: THE GOOD SISTER (Oct 2013) and THE PERFECT STRANGER (Aug 2014).

ECHOES, by **Laura K. Curtis**, comes out Mar 17 from Penguin/Intermix. It's Book 1 of a romantic suspense series featuring the men & women of Harp Security Enterprise in NYC.

Cathy Greenfeder's A DANCE OUT OF TIME is out now! It's her second young adult novel from Featherweight Press.

Kwana Jackson, Shara Moon (wa Lena Hart), **Alyssa Cole & Falguni Kothari** will give a Multicultural romance panel at RWA15.

Wendy LaCapra's LADY VICE debuts Mar 9 from Entangled Scandalous.

Alice Orr's Riverton Road Series debut Feb 14. Book 1 is A WRONG WAY HOME.

Vanessa Peters, Zoraida Cepedes (wa Mercedes Cruz) and **Maria Ferrer** are hosting a Latinas Write Romance blog tour across their three sites.

Lisa Siefert has been selected as a Presenter at RWA15 to lead a Pilates class at the conference.

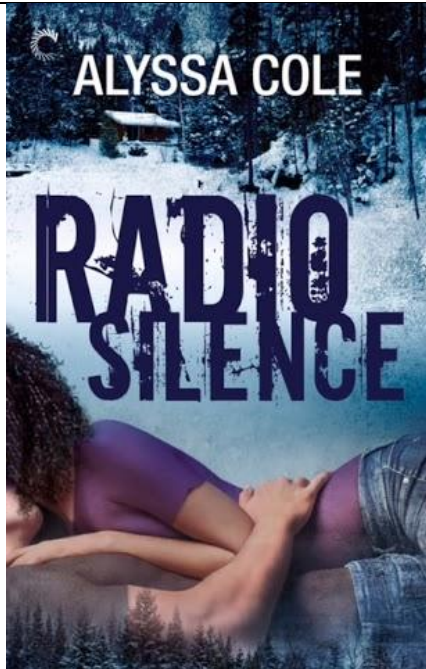
Hope Tarr celebrated 6-Years of the Lady Jane Salon on Feb 2nd (see page 24), and is celebrating the release of a new historical on Mar 3rd, CLAIMED BY THE ROGUE from Samhain.

Sofia Tate, Julia Tagan and **Hope Tarr** will be reading at Lady Jane's Salon on Mar 2nd, 7pm.

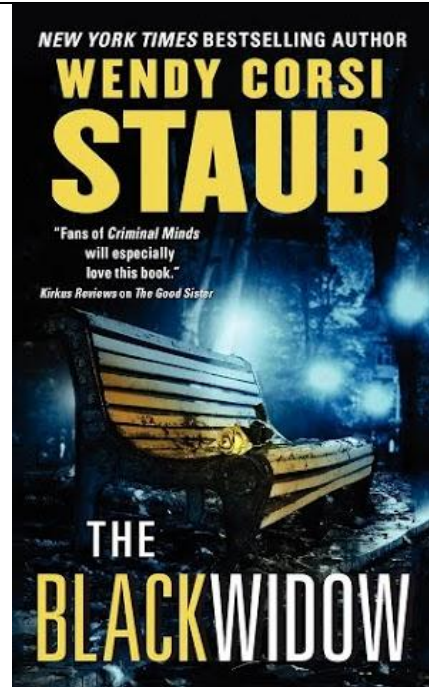
THE MOON TELLS SECRETS, a new paranormal romance by **Savanna Welles**, who also writes mysteries under the name Valerie Wilson Wesley, will be published by St. Martin's Press on Mar 24.♥



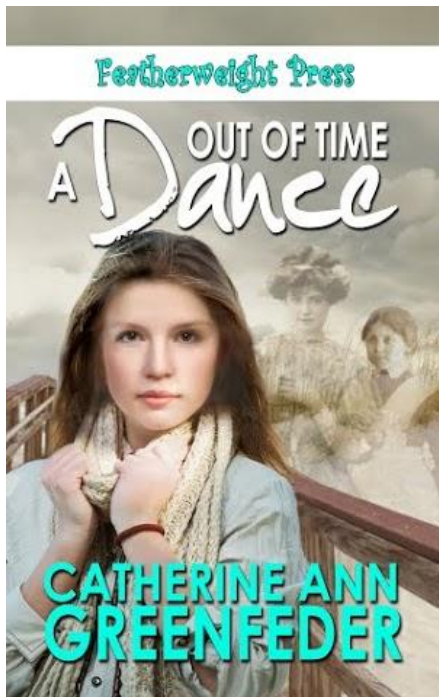
MEMBERS ON THE SHELF



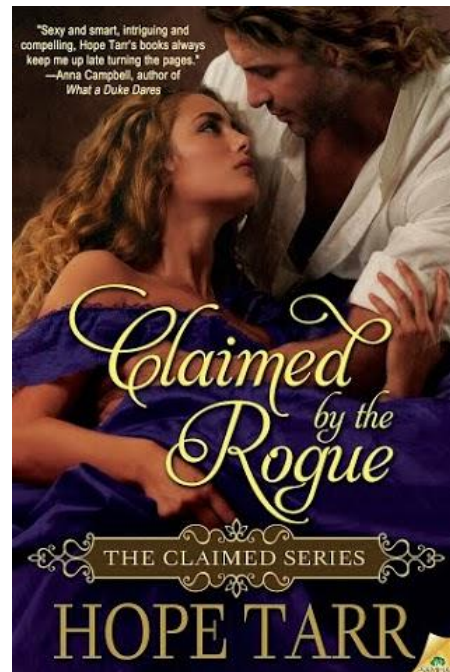
RADIO SILENCE
by Alyssa Cole
Carina Press



THE BLACK WIDOW
by Wendy Corsi Staub
Harper

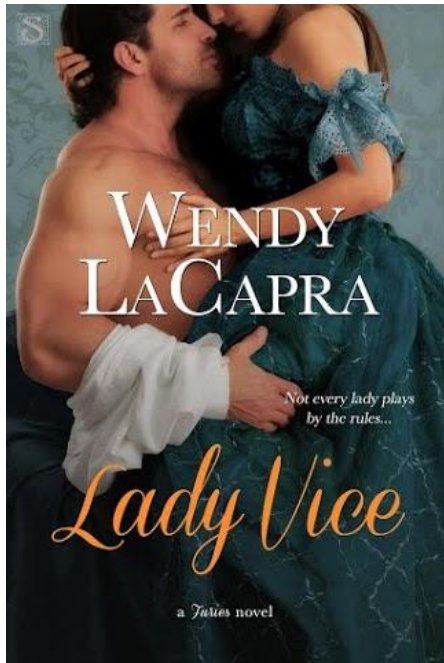


A DANCE OUT OF TIME
by Catherine Ann Greenfeder
Featherweight Press

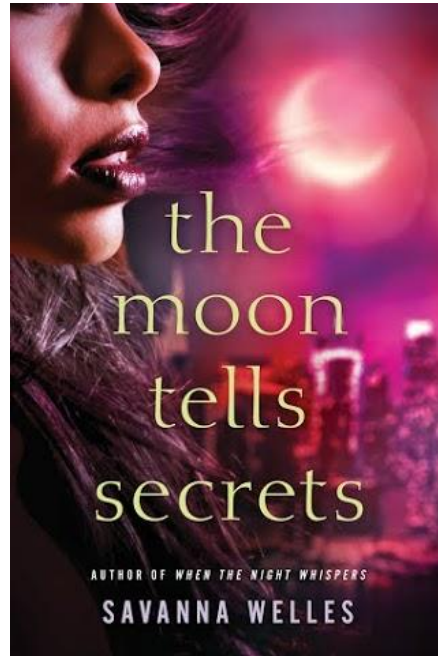


CLAIMED BY THE ROGUE
by Hope Tarr
Samhain Publishing

MEMBERS ON THE SHELF -- continued



LADY VICE
by Wendy LaCapra
Entangled



TELL SECRETS
by Savanna Welles
St. Martin's Griffin

THE
MOON



ECHOES
by Laura K. Curtis
Penguin/Intermix

FREE PROMOTION!

**Have a new story/book out?
Interesting topic, research, tips to
share? An event, book, conference
you'd like to review?**

**Keynotes is a FREE
promotion opportunity.
Send in your articles, news,
book covers, reviews, etc., to
keynoteseditor@gmail.com.
by the 15th of each month.**

THE END



On Feb 2, RWA began a writing challenge called "The End." Participants set a goal to write least 2,000 words per month from Feb – Dec 2015. During the challenge, participants can receive a daily e-mail with motivational words, writing resources, and

career/craft tips from established authors. There will be a word count tracker to help authors see their progress. For more information or to sign up, go to "The End" community in myRWA.

Members who sign up for "The End" an also join the RWA/NYC challenge loop (new name will be announced soon). We will post motivational quote and cheer each other. If you're interested in joining this loop, please email me at ursula.shand@gmail.com. Finally, all RWA/NYC members who sign up and reach their goals every month from February to Nov 2015 will be entered into a raffle (gift to be announced at a later date).

Good luck to all the members participating in the challenge.♥

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM RWA

The deadline to submit a story for consideration in RWA's second anthology is March 12, 2015. The theme will be Second Chances. All members of RWA are welcome to submit a story for consideration. For more information, you can go to <http://www.rwa.org/page/call-for-submissions>.♥

When you sit down to write, write. Don't do anything else except go to the bathroom, and only do that if it absolutely cannot be put off.

Stephen King

- www.writerswrite.co.za

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

APRIL. The Second Annual RWA/NYC Spring Retreat will be held on the weekend of Apr 17, at the Inn at Ocean Grove. We are receiving a special rate of \$99/night. The price includes breakfast in the morning. There are plenty of places in the Inn and in town where you will be able to curl up and write. Ocean Grove is also the perfect place to get the small town feel for those who want use that setting for a story. To reserve a room, you can call The Inn at Ocean Grove at 732-775-8847. Also, Please let me know if you plan to attend.

JUNE. The publicity committee is working on plans for the Second Annual Romance Festival, which will be held on June 20 at the Morris Jumel Mansion. We will have more information in the upcoming months.

JULY. Registration is open for the RWA 2015 Conference. This year's conference will be held at the New York Marriott Marquis from July 22 – July 25. The registration fee is \$450 for RWA members until April 12. ♥

**USING THE TOOLS OF A JOURNALIST TO IMPROVE YOUR FICTION WRITING.
BY JULIA TAGAN**



I started out as a journalist, so the idea of writing romance terrified me at first: how does one go about making up imaginary people and events? Since a journalist bases articles on real-life facts and quotes, I decided to use those techniques as a way in to my romance plots and characters.

RESEARCH

Step away from the Internet. Get out into the real world to discover intriguing details for your books. I based my first romance, *A QUESTION OF CLASS*, on a woman who lived a scandalous life in New York City in the 1800s. Her house still stands on upper Manhattan, so I visited her home, the grand Morris-Jumel mansion, and wandered around the rooms. When I noticed one room was painted a brilliant turquoise blue, I put it in the book as a way of commenting on her character: colorful and daring. One example of real life inspiring art.

Dig into your local library. Specificity is what helps the reader trust you, the writer, as an expert on your subject. When I was writing *STAGES OF DESIRE*, about a group of actors in Regency-era England, I discovered a book from the 1800s on strolling players was available at a nearby library. It was too valuable to be checked out, so I spent the afternoon working my way through it, jotting down notes about how the actors were paid and what they wore, down to the gold trim on their coats, which of course went right into the book.

Find an expert. Recently, while working on a manuscript based in New York City in 1951, I was delighted to find an evening class devoted to bebop – the kind of jazz popular at that time. Of course, I could have read about bebop online and listened to the songs on iTunes, but hearing an expert recount stories of the music and musicians of that era gave me the confidence and knowledge to incorporate it, almost as another character, in the book.

INTERVIEWING

When you're researching your heroine or hero's career or background, nothing beats spending 20 minutes speaking with an expert in the field, whether it's a cowboy, a Navy SEAL or a gourmet cook. Quick tips for interviewing:

- Record the interview so you don't have to worry about your typing speed (or lack thereof). Popular apps include Notability (\$5.99 for Apple products) and tapeacall (\$9.99 for iPhone & Android)
- Ask permission first – in some states it's illegal to tape someone without their consent.
- Have a list of questions to guide you, but let the conversation flow naturally.



- Feel free to redirect if your source is rambling on.
- Ask at the end: “Is there anything important I’ve missed?” That’s where you’ll often find gold nuggets of information.
- Get the spelling of the source’s name for your acknowledgements.
- Send an email the next day, thanking them for their time and expertise.♥

These are the notes from Julia's speech at February's RWA/NYC chapter meeting.

Julia Tagan is based in New York City, where she worked as an actress before venturing into writing. A journalist by training, she enjoys weaving actual events and notorious individuals into her historical romances. Her historical romance, STAGES OF DESIRE, was released by Kensington/Lyrical in January 2015. Visit her at www.juliatagan.com.

50 SHADES OF SEXY BLOG TOUR

Our 50 Shades of Sexy Blog Tour launched on February 1. 50 excerpts in 50 days. We've had a great run in February and have now moved into March for excerpts.

FSOS is a great opportunity to show off YOUR writing. Note that there are still a handful of days left for anyone who has not participated already.

Submission is simple. All we need is a short sexy excerpt of 150-175 words, a mini bio and your social media contact info.

All Chapter Members are encouraged to participate!

Email Maria Ferrer at ferrerm@aol.com if you want to join the FSOS Tour.♥



**THE GIDDY GRAMMARIAN:
“MALAPROPISMS FOR FUN AND PROFIT”
BY LISBETH ENG**



Richard Brinsley Sheridan’s 1775 comedy *THE RIVALS* inspired the word malapropism. It is a reference to a character in the play, Mrs. Malaprop, who amusingly abuses the English language. Sheridan borrowed her name from the French phrase “mal à propos” meaning poorly placed or inappropriate.

A malapropism is usually a misplaced word, though not necessarily a distorted one. Mrs. Malaprop herself deserves the rightful honor of our first example. In Act 3, Scene III of *THE RIVALS* she states, “Sure, if I reprehend anything in this world it is the use of my oracular tongue, and a nice derangement of epitaphs!”

Retired baseball great Yogi Berra, renowned for misspeech, once remarked, “Texas has a lot of electrical votes.” Of course, he meant to say, “electoral.” Many have suspected, however, that some of his comically twisted phrases were intentional, and contained a kernel of wisdom: “You can observe a lot by just watching” and “When you come to a fork in the road, take it.”

A close cousin of malapropism is the spoonerism, named after British clergyman Reverend William Archibald Spooner. It is an error in speech or a deliberate play on words, where corresponding consonants and vowels are switched between two words in a phrase. He is purported to have said in one of his sermons, “The Lord is a shoving leopard” instead of “The Lord is a loving shepherd.”

President George W. Bush, who was sometimes guilty of amusingly confusing diction, famously stated, “They misunderestimated me.” Yet he apparently recognized his verbal faux pas by admitting, “In my sentences I go where no man has gone before,” and seemed able to poke fun at himself. And while on the “right” side of wrong speech, I can’t help but reference former Alaska governor and vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin’s tweet: “Mosque supporters: doesn’t it stab you in the heart, as it does ours throughout the heartland? Peaceful Muslims, pls (*sic*) refudiate,” a mangled mix-up of refute and repudiate.

I would be remiss, however, if I did not point out that the other end of the political spectrum is just as accountable for making up words, as President Barack Obama did when he coined the phrase “wee-wee’d up,” an apparent reference to the bed wetting-inducing angst of his detractors over the healthcare issue.

I trust you now understand the fun part, but what about the profit? As fiction writers, we can infuse humor, even in books with a darker or more severe tone, to add depth and complexity to characters and scenes. Elements of lightness and wit can enrich your text, and, hopefully, your bank account as well, as copious royalty checks come pouring in.♥

Lisbeth Eng works as a Compliance Officer in the financial industry by day and writes historical romance by night. She holds a bachelor's degree in English, and speaks a smattering of German, Italian and French. Please visit her at www.lisbetheng.com.

CRAFT CORNER: OH THE SUSPENSE!**BY ISABO KELLY**



Will she get what she wants? Will he rescue his daughter? Is she going to survive the storm? Will she lose her business? Is he going to give in to his father's demand that he marry? Is he ever going to bloody kiss her!? Now that they've slept together, will she leave him? If he loves her, how can he destroy her family business?

Stories turn on questions that readers must have answered. They will keep reading to get those answers well after they should have gone to sleep. The suspense of waiting to see

what will happen next, of not knowing exactly how things will work out, is vital to fiction. This goes for all stories, not just mysteries or crime novels. Any work of fiction requires tension and suspense to keep readers interested in the outcome.

So how do you create a sense of suspense throughout your story? Here are ten things to try:

(1) Develop characters readers will root for. The more interesting your protagonist, the more the reader wants them to triumph, the more tension they'll feel as that character faces all the obstacles you throw in their way. The character doesn't necessarily have to be a traditionally "likeable" character. They just have to be engaging enough for readers to care about how things work out for them.

(2) Give your main character a seemingly "impossible" goal. They need to want that goal desperately, and you need to make sure readers doubt they can ever achieve it.

(3) Make the antagonist stronger than the hero. Put the hero's ability to overcome this superior force in question all the way to the end of the book. The antagonist doesn't have to be a person either. It can be anything that actively prevents a hero from reaching her goal. For example, a severe storm can function as an antagonist. Whatever the opposing force is, it just has to be so powerful, it leaves readers doubting the hero can triumph.

(4) Let the reader know something the protagonist doesn't. A little dramatic irony goes a long way. If the reader knows the hero is walking into a trap, yet they are powerless to stop her from doing so, the suspense for the poor reader can be immense.

(5) Have one character know something that the other doesn't. A variation on number (4), this can set up a delicious amount of tension and raise all kinds of questions. One of my favorite uses of this in Romance fiction is when the hero has fallen in love with the heroine (even if he's still denying it to himself) and she doesn't know yet. She reacts to him from a place of complete ignorance of his feelings, while he's losing his mind because he loves her so much. I adore this kind of suspense—when will he figure it out? When will she? When will he admit it? How will she react? It doesn't matter how often this way of heightening suspense is used, it still keeps me tense and turning pages to see what happens.

(6) Keep throwing up obstacles for the protagonist to overcome. These can and should come from all directions, not just from the antagonist. Even well-meaning family and friends can trip up the main characters on their way to The End.



(7) Every time one story question is answered, makes sure more questions arise. Just as the reader thinks the tension will ease, more questions come up that they *have* to know the answers to. How can they possibly stop reading until they get those answers?

(8) Give the main character a moral dilemma to reaching their goal. The more lose-lose this dilemma is the more suspense it creates. How will the protagonist choose between right and wrong when both ways lead to disaster?

(9) Use setting, weather, and background to set a tense mood. A well placed “dark and stormy night” can enhance the tense atmosphere and keep the suspense of waiting to see what will happen high.

(10) Defy expectations. As soon as the reader thinks they know what’s happening, turn those expectations on their ear. The reader won’t know what you might do next and will *have* to keep reading to find out.

Suspense is the glue that keeps readers stuck in your book. Wind up the tension, keep them wondering, make sure they have to get to the end because they need to know what happens, and you’ll create loyal readers for life.♥

Isabo Kelly is the award-winning author of multiple fantasy, science fiction, and paranormal romances. Her most recent fantasy romance, WARRIOR’S DAWN, is packed full of suspense to delight and torment readers. For more on Isabo and her books, visit her at www.isabokelly.com, follow her on Twitter @IsaboKelly, or friend her on Facebook www.facebook.com/IsaboKelly.

HELP WANTED: PRODUCTION MANAGER



We need a Production Manager to work with the Keynotes Editor. The production manager will:

- 1) work on the look and content layout of the newsletter.
- 2) add articles and images and format the page(s).
- 4) distribute newsletter to membership via email.
- 5) upload newsletter to Yahoo Groups and Editors loop.

The requirements for a production manager include: creativity, knowledge of MS Word and access to internet. Any design or photoshop or design experience is a plus but not necessary.

If you are interested in either position or have questions, please email Ursula Renée at ursula.shand@gmail.com. Thank you for your support.♥

SOCIAL NETWORKING FOR AUTHORS: MAKING FRIENDS
BY MARIA C. FERRER

After you setup Twitter and Facebook accounts to promote your brand/ your writing, you'll need to make friends. Think writers, editors, agents, publishers and industry professionals.

Here are some tips on how to find these people:

1) Add fellow romance writers. Start with the 100+ members of RWA/NYC, and other writers that you admire and enjoy reading.



2) Add editors, agents and publishing houses.

Most of these have their own social accounts so connect to them. Again, pick publishers that you want to write for. Pick editors and agents in your genre(s). You'll find they often hold "open pitches" on their sites that you can tap into.

3) Add industry professionals like romance bloggers (Heroes & Heartbreakers; Smart Bitches, Trashy Books), review magazines (RT Book Reviews), writing associations (RWA, Sisters in Crime, Beau Monde), etc.

4) Add specific resources on your favorite genres and topics. For example, if you write cowboys, you might want to friend Cattlemen's associations, the Texas Rangers museum, etc.

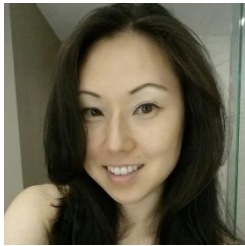
5) And if you still don't know who to add as friends/ followers, try this trick: look up a writer (or a few) that you admire in your genre(s). Look to see who she is following. If you are interested in those same people/publishers/associations/et al, then friend them as well.

Remember that you want to start making your presence known, you want to start promoting your brand as soon as possible. Start by liking and retweeting posts, and making comments where appropriate.

The object of the game is to make friends with as many people as possible. Good luck!♥

Maria C. Ferrer is RWA/NYC's Blog Mistress. She is very interested in increasing her presence on the social networks, and is willing to share her findings. Maria hopes others will share as well. Visit her at www.marializaferrer.blogspot.com and www.mydelcarmen.com.

FIT & WORDY: NEVER SAY NEVER WHEN IT COMES TO FOOD BY LISA SIEFERT



I'm not sure about you but as soon as you tell me I can't have something, it's all I want. Tell me not to eat ice cream and suddenly that's all I can think about. I see ice cream shops on every corner where before there was nothing. Prior to this newly imposed restriction, I never noticed the Haagen-Daaz stand next to the bank, the gelato case at the bodega nor the aging, frostbitten ice cream in my freezer.

The old me (the one constantly on a diet or binging after rebounding from said diet) used to love posters like this. I'd print them out and tack them up everywhere, make them my desktop image and screensaver on all my devices. All in the name of health and fitness. They worked. For a while...

And what happened when I couldn't take it anymore and finally gave in to my new, unshakeable ice cream obsession? I felt guilty and disappointed in myself and started using words like failure, loser and pathetic to describe myself. The only solution after this was to double down and tackle my self-imposed anti-ice cream mandate with even more force. Sometimes, I even added in another food item I loved, like cheese, to the off-limits list and extended the time period from one month to two, as well, for punishment. How ridiculous was that?

When you look at this poster, it seems like a good idea: restricting high calorie food should help you lose weight. So why doesn't it work? For the same reason that all diets fail: strict calorie restriction can never be maintained.

Negative reinforcement is never the answer. It's been proven time and time again that positive reinforcement produces better, faster and more long lasting results. And I'm not talking about rewarding yourself for sticking to your diet. I'm talking about being kinder to yourself. Forgiving yourself if you indulged in a little more than you intended, didn't make it to the gym or had that second helping. Don't obsess over it.

The less time you waste worrying about your diet, the more time you'll have to write, workout and feel good about yourself. Accept that this is where you are and that's okay. Seriously, try it. I promise, **it will change your life.**

The next time you're inspired by one of these silly food-obsession inducing posters, disguised as fitness motivation, delete it. It's not motivating and it won't help you. You can't hate yourself into being better.

Continued on page 23.



AFTER THE FIRST BOOK: BUCKING THE TREND
BY KATE MCMURRAY



Conventional wisdom can be a dangerous thing. In some ways, following trends or listening to assumptions about what everyone knows to be true can stifle creativity. We're career-minded writers, after all, and we want to be able to make money doing what we do. It may seem logical to write a book based on what's hot right now.

Here's the thing, though. Nobody knows what the next big thing looks like.

Think about the last few big publishing phenomena. HARRY POTTER, TWILIGHT, THE HUNGER GAMES, FIFTY SHADES... each of these broke out because there wasn't anything quite like it on the market. You could argue that these big bestsellers are derivative, but I think what makes them stand out is that they take some old ideas or tropes and put new spins on them. So it gives readers something familiar to grab onto but then takes them to unexpected places. The other thing about each of these works is that no one could have foreseen that they'd be the great successes they turned out to be.

I think it's good to follow trends insofar as it's good to know what's doing well in the market right now. Contemporary romance is selling very well. Historical and paranormal are not selling as well as they once did, but they remain foundations of the genre and will likely rise again. New Adult is hot and has stuck around much longer than I expected it to.

It used to be that writing to trends was a fool's errand because, by the time you wrote your book and got it published, the trend was over. The advent of self-publishing and digital-first imprints has cut the time it takes to put a book in stores, so it's possible to capitalize on a trend and get a book out there while it's still hot. But do you really want to?

The next break-out bestseller is probably not going to be something we've seen before, so why not be innovative?

The books that really capture our collective attention, or the books that just stick with us long after we've put them down, are special and stand out for doing something a little different, right? They're not typically books that do things the way we've always seen them. They may have elements we know of: an enemies-to-lovers plot, a small-town setting, vampires. But they have to do something to stand out.

In the wake of the FIFTY SHADES movie hitting theaters, I've seen a bunch of blog posts and lists being passed around of books that will appeal to fans of the FIFTY SHADES book/movie phenomenon. A lot of the books I've seen recommended are ones I've read and enjoyed, and most of them really different from FIFTY SHADES. These lists have books by Nora Roberts, Sylvia Day, and a host of others, and they range from contemporary to paranormal to LGBT romances. The thing they seem to have in common is that they're hot reads that left an impression with the reader. Which makes me think that the key to writing a book that sticks with

a reader is not so much setting or plot elements or the inclusion of billionaires so much as the feeling the book leaves the audience with. Good writing and a compelling story count for a lot, after all.



I think also that writing to a particular audience can be limiting. I was just talking with another author the other day about realism vs. romance reader expectations, and how these two things are not always compatible. So is it better to be true to the characters and make a story realistic, or is it more important to make readers happy?

It seems to me that we're better writers when we follow our inspiration and don't force ourselves to write something that our hearts aren't completely invested in. Writing a story because it's popular and not because it's the story that excites you will likely lead to lackluster prose. Readers can tell when you're not really feeling it. But think about those bursts of creativity you have, when the words come easily and you're really into the story and the characters—that's when you do your best work, right?

So why not forget about the trends? Write the story of your heart, the story that inspires you. And who knows? It might just be the next big bestseller.♥

RWA/NYC VP Kate McMurray is an award-winning author of gay romance and an unabashed romance fan. When she's not writing, she works as a nonfiction editor, dabbles in various crafts, and is maybe a tiny bit obsessed with baseball. She has served as President of Rainbow Romance Writers, the LGBT romance chapter of Romance Writers of America. She lives in Brooklyn, NY. Her tenth novel, WHEN THE PLANETS ALIGN was published in December 2014 by Dreamspinner Press. Visit her at www.katemcmurray.com.

FIT & WORDY -- CONTINUED

"I'm not going to sacrifice my mental health to have the perfect body." – Demi Lovato

From now on:

1. **Forgive yourself for all deviations from the perfect day.** All you can do is your best. Let that be enough.
2. **Wear clothes that fit.** No more squeezing into smaller sizes that are no longer comfortable and act as a constant reminder of the extra weight you've gained since you originally bought them. And while you're at it, throw away anything made by Spanxx.
3. **Focus on what you like about yourself.** Forget about everything that you don't.

For more fitness based tips for writers, go to www.fitandwordygirl.com.♥

Lisa Siefert is an aspiring NA/Mystery author who lives on the UWS with her dog: Hoppy, a fit and barky 10# miniature pincher. Please visit her at www.fitandwordygirl.com.

HAPPY 6TH BIRTHDAY, LADY JANE!**BY HOPE TARR, LADY JANE'S SALON® CO-FOUNDER**

On Monday, February 2nd, we celebrated Lady Jane's sixth year as New York City's first—and still *only*—monthly reading series for romance. Being the “first and only” is big shakes anywhere but being so in New York City, the country's publishing capital, is extra cause for crowing—and

gratitude. Without the loyalty of our supporters—romance fans, authors, bloggers, agents, and publishers, including our beloved RWA/NYC chapter, whose members and associate members cross over all those categories—we wouldn't have survived, let alone thrived, for the past six years and counting! Currently we're booking authors for winter 2015/2016 and our grassroots success has inspired the startup of eight Lady Jane's Salon® satellites across the country, all of which follow our Salon model of donating their net proceeds to a 501c(3) charity. That's... a lot to celebrate. And celebrate we did! Though the weather was truly frightful (snow, freezing rain, more snow), once inside our Naughty Red Room at Madame X, we were toasty warm and prepped to party.



First up, Jessica Topper (photo on left) read *DICTATORSHIP OF THE DRESS*, the launch to her “Much ‘I Do’ About Nothing” series. Next, my Salon co-founder, the lovely Leanna Renee Hieber, read the first few scenes from her just released gaslight fantasy series, *THE ETERNA FILES* (“a creepy historical fantasy”—her words, not mine) garbed in full Victorian regalia, no less!

The mid-program break saw us feverishly pouring champagne and setting mini cupcakes on platters, both refreshments courtesy of this year's event sponsor, Diversion Books. The company's Ever After Romance® e-book app, exclusively for romance fiction, is free on the App Store (iOS) and Google Play (Android).

Champagne flutes in hand, my co-founders Ron, Leanna, and Maya, and I headed to the stage where we each took a turn at the microphone to express what the Salon—especially you, our audience—means to us. For me, it comes down to gratitude. When we embarked on this enterprise back in November 2008, we did so as an experiment. Would genre fans come out consistently to hear



Hope Tarr

their favorite romance authors read? Could we book sufficient authors to support a regular monthly program? Would our modest admission see us through to covering our basic operating costs?

Would there be funds left over for our end-of-year donation to our chosen charity, Women in Need? Happily, those questions have been answered with a resounding *yes* and our initial modest expectations exceeded many times over. We're now booking authors for winter 2015/2016 and our grassroots success has inspired the startup of eight Lady Jane's Salon® satellites across the country, all of which follow our model of donating their net proceeds to a 501c(3) charity. That's a lot to celebrate and, even more importantly, a great deal for which to be grateful. Dry eyes—not many!



Alyssa Montoya, head of volunteer services for Win, joined us on stage to accept our annual donation award, \$850 this year, and to speak about the organization and its wonderful programs. Win has been serving formerly homeless mothers and their children across the Five Boroughs since its February 14, 1983 launch—Valentine's Day, no less!

Eyes dried, glasses clinked, and cupcakes consumed, it was time to cede the spotlight to our remaining readers. The final two readings represented a rare and important departure from our *fiction* focus while keeping the spotlight trained solidly on *romance*. Salon co-founder Maya Rodale read from her self-published title, *DANGEROUS BOOKS FOR GIRLS: THE BAD REPUTATION OF ROMANCE NOVELS, EXPLAINED*, a savvy treatise in which Maya unpacks many of the (still) persistent myths about romance as well as examines why the genre, still largely written by and for women, continues to be much misunderstood and maligned beyond its fan base.



Rounding out the program was our lovely Lady in Red, historical fiction author and British Royals expert, Leslie Carroll. Leslie shared “Holding Out for A Hero,” a poignant, epistolary account of her second-chance-at-love story with her husband, Scott, at the time a soldier deployed overseas. Leslie's uplifting true romance appears in my *SCRIBBLING WOMEN & THE REAL-LIFE ROMANCE HEROES WHO LOVE THEM*, an anthology of twenty-eight popular romance fiction writers waxing poetic, witty, and wise on how they met, wed, and love (over time) their

real-life spouses and significant others. Contributors include several RWA/NYC chapter members (e.g., KM Jackson, Isabo Kelly, Suzan Colón, Sara Jane Stone) as well as those from farther afield (e.g., Julie Kenner, Deanna Raybourn and Lisa Renee Jones). Net sales of the book support Win.

Couldn't make it last month? No worries! Take two ticks and check out my behind-the-scenes Lady Jane's Salon® Author Roundtable, a regular monthly feature at Romance at Random.

Each month, our Salon guests hang out in my virtual Green Room and dish on my Same Five Questions—plus provide a few fun factoids—in anticipation of their Big Night.

<http://romanceatrandom.com/happy-sixth-birthday-lady-janes-salon/>

And please plan to join us on **Monday, March 2nd**, 7-9pm when our guests will be Sofia Tate, Marissa Doyle, Eliza Freed, Hope Tarr (yes, me!) and Julia Tagan. For now...

Huzzah to Happily Ever After—and, I hope, spring!♥



Leanna Renee Hieber



Maya Rodale

***Hope Tarr** is the author of twenty-five historical and contemporary romance novels for multiple publishers, including OPERATION CINDERELLA, optioned by Twentieth Century Fox for feature film, and CLAIMED BY THE ROGUE, her most recent single-title historical romance. Her books have been translated into thirty languages including French, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, German, Korean, Japanese and, coming soon, Slovene! Hope is a co-founder and current curator of Lady Jane's Salon® and the editor and publisher of Scribbling Women & the Real-Life Romance Heroes Who Love Them, a nonfiction anthology of romance authors' true love stories; net sales support Win. Prior to launching her writing career, she earned a Master's Degree in Developmental Psychology and a Ph.D. in Education, both from the Catholic University of America. She lives in Manhattan with her real-life romance hero and their rescue cats. Find Hope online at www.HopeTarr.com, www.LadyJaneSalonNYC.com, www.Facebook.com/HopeC.Tarr, http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/254454.Hope_Tarr and www.twitter.com/HopeTarr.*



RWA/NYC Membership & Renewal Application

DATE: _____

*CHECK ONE: ___NEW MEMBER ___RENEWAL

NAME: _____ NATIONAL RWA MEMBER # (required) _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/ STATE/ ZIP CODE: _____

HOME TEL: _____ EMAIL: _____

*NOTE: All RWA/NYC Members must be members of RWA National. For national membership form, visit www.rwanational.org.

CHAPTER INVOLVEMENT: Please volunteer to help out in at least ONE (1) chapter event.

I want to help out with (check all that apply): ___contest ___awards reception ___newsletter ___website ___retreat ___ALL!

HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT US? ___RWA ___Face-book/Twitter ___Website ___Other: _____

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Chapter dues are due March 7, 2015.

Make checks payable to RWA/NYC.

There will be a \$10 late fee for all renewals after March 1st; and, \$20 fee on all returned checks. Return completed form with your dues to RWA/NYC, POB 3722 Grand Central Station NY NY10163, or you can pay via PayPal at www.rwanyc.com.

___ **GENERAL MEMBER --\$ 40/year**
(Dues: Jun-Jul= \$30; Aug-Sep= \$25; Oct-Dec= \$20.)

___ **CHARTER MEMBER --\$ 35/year**
(ONLY for members continuously since 1989)

___ **ASSOCIATE MEMBER --\$ 35/year**
(Dues: Jun-Jul= \$25; Aug-Sep= \$20; Oct-Dec= \$15.)
(ONLY for related professionals not pursuing writing career)

OPTIONAL: Check here if you are making an additional contribution to the chapter in the amount of \$_____.

You can also pay via PAYPAL at www.rwanyc.com.

WRITING CREDITS

CHECK ONE: ___PUBLISHED ___UNPUBLISHED

CHECK ONE if you are an RWA National Member of:
___PAN ___PRO

If UNPUBLISHED, tell us at what stage you are:
___New or ___Pre-Published (have submitted something)
Also, please fill out info below on your website and social networks.

If PUBLISHED, in what format? i.e., book-length romantic fiction, short fiction, electronic, confessions, etc.

PUBLISHER(S): _____

PSEUDONYM(S)? _____

WEBSITE(S): _____

BLOG: _____

FACE-BOOK _____

TWITTER _____