

# KEYNOTES



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The newsletter of the Romance Writers of America / New York City Chapter #6 SEPTEMBER 2016

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**NEXT CHAPTER MEETING & CRITIQUE SESSION: SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10  
TRS, 40 EXCHANGE PLACE, 3<sup>RD</sup> FLOOR, 12-4PM**

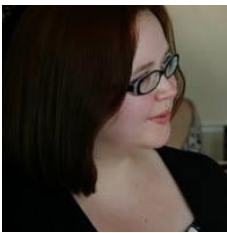
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## **TOPIC:        DEFINING ROMANCE**

**SPEAKERS:       MARY ALTMAN & JENNIFER UDDEN**

Despite the popularity of the romance genre, there is still confusion about what makes a book a romance. Some people believe romances must have sex and do not understand the difference between a romance and a love story. There are also misconceptions about what is acceptable in a romance.

In *Defining Romance* an agent and editor will discuss the romance genre, what makes a book a romance and what is not considered romantic.



Mary Altman, Sourcebooks Editor, discovered Romance in the 4th grade, when her best friend smuggled a copy of *A KNIGHT IN SHINING ARMOR* to the lunchroom, and she's been a convert ever since. She has a passion for travel and lives in a tragically unhip corner of Brooklyn with her fiancé and an overflowing TBR pile. She's looking for all subgenres of Romance: contemporary, romantic suspense, paranormal, historical, new adult, LGBTQIA+ and erotic. She's also interested in subcategories such as fantasy romance, action-adventure romance, and thriller romance. For all books, the romance must be the central driving force of the book. If you would go to the Romance shelf to find it, then it's probably a good fit! Visit Sourcebooks at [www.sourcebooks.com](http://www.sourcebooks.com).



Jennifer Udden was born in Houston, TX, and spent many of her formative years hiding books under tables while she was meant to be paying attention to something else. She has a BA from Mount Holyoke College, and graduated in 2008 with a major in Politics, a minor in Chinese, and honors thesis work on anxiety in British detective fiction of the early 20th century. She has worked in fundraising for an off-Broadway theater company and joined the publishing industry in 2010 at the Donald Maass Literary Agency. She is currently an agent at Barry Goldblatt Literary. She blogs at [www.jenniferudden.com](http://www.jenniferudden.com) and [jenniferudden.wordpress.com](http://jenniferudden.wordpress.com).

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### **CALENDAR**

Sep-- Vote on National Bylaws  
Sep 15-- RWA/NYC contest deadline  
Sep 18-- Brooklyn Book Festival  
Sep 22—RWA/NYC Golden Apple Awards  
Sep 30 – Nominations for Chapter Board due

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### **CRITIQUE SESSION**

There will be a critique session following our speakers. Bring two to four pages to share with group.



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page	
3—Chapter Elections	
5—Chapter Minutes: August	
6—Member News, Brooklyn Book Festival	
7—President’s Message	
8—Chapter Contest	
9—Members on the Shelf	
10—Golden Apple Awards	
12—PRO/PAN	
13—Back to School: Writing YA and NA	
14—Puppy Love	
15—Craft Corner	
17—Going the Indie Route with Alice Orr	
18—Don’t Take It Personally	
20—Embracing My Particular Brand of Crazy	
21—Hot Romance: Q&A with Elizabeth Cole	
23—My Writing Den!	
24—Finding New Author Writers	

## THANK YOU!

To Our Contributing Writers  
 Stacey Agdern, Maria Cox, Maria Ferrer,  
 Isabo Kelly, LaQuette, Kate McMurray,  
 Mimi Pizarro Logsdon, Racheline Maltese,  
 Alice Orr, Ursula Renee, A.C. Rose,  
 Lisa Siefert

## 2016 CHAPTER CALENDAR

Jul 9 Aug 6 Sep 10 Oct 1 Nov 5 Dec 3

## KEYNOTES DEADLINE

Send articles to [keynoteseditor@gmail.com](mailto:keynoteseditor@gmail.com)  
 by the 15th of the month. All articles  
 must be typed and up to 500 words.

## RWA/NYC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Kate McMurray  
 Vice President/Events: Mimi Pizarro Logsdon  
 Vice President/Contest: Racheline Maltese  
 Secretary: Stacey Agdern  
 Treasurer: Tamara Lynch  
 Past President: Ursula Renée

## LIAISONS & COMMITTEES

Board Liaison: Lisbeth Eng  
 PRO Liaisons: Maria Cox  
 PAN Liaison: LaQuette  
 Blog/Social Media: Maria Ferrer  
 Craft Loop: Isabo Kelly  
 Critique Group: TBD  
 Keynotes Editor: Ursula Renée  
 Publicity: Jean Joachim, Michael Molloy,  
 Maria Cox  
 Website: Ursula Renée

**ATTENTION:** The Board welcomes all  
 comments/suggestions/etc. Please send emails  
 to [info@rwanyc.com](mailto: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](http://www.rwanyc.com)  
[info@rwanyc.com](mailto:info@rwanyc.com)  
[rwanycblogginginthebigapple.blogspot.com](http://rwanycblogginginthebigapple.blogspot.com)

## OCTOBER THEME

CELEBRATING THE  
 DELICIOUSLY STRANGE

Think horror, paranormal, sci fi, fantasy.  
 Think bad boys and faster women.

**CHAPTER ELECTIONS****RWA/NYC WANTS YOU!****Nominations for the 2017 RWA/NYC Board of Directors are due September 30.**

Romance Writers of America New York City, Inc. needs five members to sit on the 2017 Board. There are five Board positions that need to be filled (President, V.P. of Programs, V.P. of Communications, Secretary and Treasurer). The V.P. of Programs handles the Golden Apple Awards and the V.P. of Communications runs the chapter contest.

To run for a position on the Board, a candidate has to have been a member of the chapter for two consecutive years immediately before running. In addition, to run for President, a member must have been a member of the chapter for three years immediately before running and have served on the Board for one year.

**NOMINATIONS**

All general members in good standing and who have been members for two years are eligible to run for the Board. Nominations are due to the Chapter Secretary Stacey Agdern by September 30. Email her at [info@rwanyc.com](mailto:info@rwanyc.com).

**OFFICE JOB DESCRIPTIONS**President

As the RWA/NYC Chapter President, you are the voice and the face of the chapter. You are on all the chapter committees and are the liaison with National. The President runs the chapter and ensures that expenses are being met and dues are being paid to National. The President also makes sure the membership is informed of decisions made by National and policies voted on by the Chapter Boards. As President, you run the monthly Board and Chapter Meetings and schedule the presentations and/or workshops for the Chapter Meetings. With the Board's approval, you schedule special Chapter events, including festivals and retreats. You also monitor the Chapter Loops, approve the Chapter newsletter, and contribute monthly articles to the Chapter newsletter and blog.

Though it is a lot of responsibility, you will have two vice presidents, a treasurer, and a secretary to work with you. The past president will be available to answer questions. In addition, you will have numerous committee heads to help you organize events. As the President, you will learn a lot about what it takes to run a chapter. You will also learn more about the publishing industry and meet wonderful new contacts. Finally, you will learn more about yourself and what you are capable of achieving.

### Vice President – Communications

As Vice President of RWA/NYC, you will organized the Kathryn Hayes Contest; our annual contest for unpublished and self-published romance authors. The contest involves reaching out to other RWA chapters, as well as the national RWA organization to garner publicity. It is a challenge as there are many different chapter contests and we have to try and make our chapter stand out among the fold. Finding judges, as well as keeping track of entries and the payments received, requires good organizational skills. Besides the contest, you will support our President.



### Vice President – Programs

The role of both VPs is to support the president and help make decisions regarding chapter matters. The role of the VP of programs specifically is primarily to organize the Golden Apple Awards. Tasks related to the GAAs include (with the support of the board) finding a venue, organizing the nomination and voting process, notifying the winners, sending out invitations, and helping the event go off seamlessly. This year I've also helped arrange guest speakers and weighed in on chapter meeting programming, and worked on a few other projects, but that's entirely at the discretion of the person in the office. Running for the board is a fantastic way to get involved with the chapter and to put your own stamp on how we operate.

### Secretary

The secretary keeps an accurate set of minutes of the discussions and topics brought up at both the Board meeting and the Chapter meeting. She is responsible for constructing a professionally written synopsis of each, and for posting them to the Board loop. She maintains accurate paper records of items such as meeting attendance sheets, and provides prospective and current members with National and Chapter membership forms at meetings, as well as PRO and PAN forms. The secretary maintains the roster of the Chapter membership and constantly updates it with the additions of new members, changes regarding the existing members, and subtraction of outgoing members. She answer inquiries made to the Chapter website and welcomes new members with a letter, invites them to join the Chapter loop, and makes sure they receive Keynotes. The secretary also participates in decision making for Chapter activities. Act as the right hand to the Chapter President and assist with any ancillary duties she requires.

### Treasurer

The primary responsibility of the treasurer is to keep accurate records of all financial transactions pertaining to the chapter. This includes bank deposits and withdrawals, PayPal transactions and online payments. You will need to present monthly reports of the chapter's financial condition to the board and to the chapter. An annual financial summary must be prepared for RWA National as part of our chapter affiliation documents. Requirements for the position include good basic math skills and a "comfort" with numbers, as well as good organizational skills. A background in finance, accounting or bookkeeping are a plus but not required. You should also be familiar with a financial spreadsheet program such as Microsoft Excel or equivalent, or at least be willing and able to learn. Above all, the treasurer must accept a high degree of responsibility in accurately recording and reporting on the financial condition of RWA/NYC and to participate as a board member in the overall administration of the chapter.♥

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**CHAPTER MINUTES: AUGUST  
BY SECRETARY STACEY AGDERN**

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Meeting opened at 12:14.

Board Members present: President Kate McMurray; Vice President Mimi Pizarro Logsdon; Secretary Stacey Agdern; Treasurer Tamara Lynch; Past President Ursula Renée and committee member LaQuette.

**July Minutes:** moved to be accepted by Kate McMurray, seconded by Mimi Pizarro Logsdon.

**Treasurer's report:** After the \$200 donation is sent to the Morris Jumel Mansion, the chapter will have \$6,965 in the bank.

**Secretary's report:** As of the meeting, the chapter had an estimated membership in the mid 70's. As of the typing of these minutes, the chapter membership stands at 84. The yahoo group matches that number, and our section of the RWA website is in the process of being conformed to the information we have.

**Golden Apple Awards:** The ceremony will take place at The Writers Den in the Library Hotel, located at 41<sup>st</sup> street and Madison Avenue on September 22 from 6-8 pm. There will be hor d'oeuvres and drinks (open bar) and an admission fee. People have been responding and there was discussion about the list being updated as people respond.

**Contest:** The website has been updated with the new guidelines and information. Published members who wish to judge should email Racheline Maltese. All writers, whether or not they are published, can enter the contest, as long as the material they are entering has not yet been published. More specific information can be found on the website.

**Newsletter:** Theme of "Back to School," with a deadline of August 15<sup>th</sup>. But, you don't have to write about the specific theme but whatever article you want to send. Ursula is open.

**Critique Group:** The group will resume meeting in conjunction with chapter meetings if time allows.

**PAN/PRO:** PAN members, let LaQuette know what you'd like to see happen. Also, let her know if a pan retreat interests you. PRO members, keep Maria Cox informed ☺

**Brooklyn Book Festival:** Table space is sold out but volunteers are needed! The event will take place on September 18<sup>th</sup> from 10-6. Also, more people are needed for the publicity committee. Sign up because important discussions are taking place about the future of the romance festival and the chapter wants to know what you think. (See next page for schedule.)

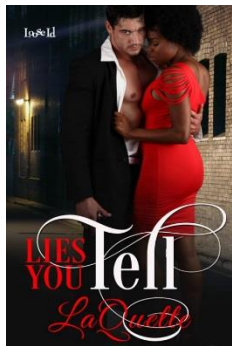




**New Business:**

A few board positions will be opening up, and if you're interested in joining the board, do it ☺ Nominations will be open starting in September and voting will take place in October. Also, for those attending the mixer with HWA and MWA on the 11<sup>th</sup> (please do), you should RSVP on Eventbrite. This will make the check in process so much easier for those involved.

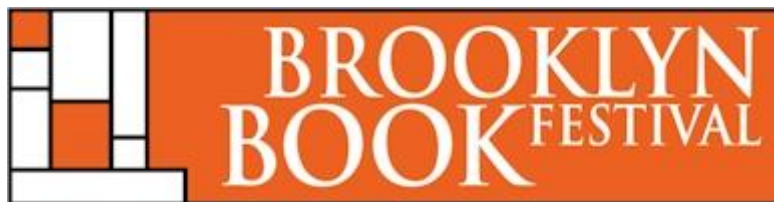
Meeting Closed at 12:37.♥

**MEMBER NEWS**

**Rev. Laurie Sue Brockway's** article, "Selling sex has never been so lucrative," was published in the August 10, 2016 *New York Post*.

**Anna DePalo's** *SECOND CHANCE WITH THE CEO*, Book 1 of The Serengetti Brothers Series, will be released in September 2016 by Harlequin.

**LaQuette** has a new release for September 13, *LIES YOU TELL*, from LooseID. Check out this gorgeous cover on page 20.

**BROOKLYN BOOK FESTIVAL SCHEDULE – SUNDAY, SEPT 18**

Join us on Sunday, September 19, at the Brooklyn Book Festival at Brooklyn Borough Hall and Plaza, 209 Joralemon Street. Come early; we start at 10:00 am.

Time Slot	Author # 1	Author # 2
10 am – 12 noon	Michael J. Molloy	Jocelyn Koehler
12 noon – 2 pm	Kwana Jackson	Falguni Kothari
2 pm – 4 pm	Racheline Maltese	Catherine Maiorisi
4 pm – 6 pm	Mingmei Yip	Verleiz Lattimore

**VOLUNTEERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOMED!** If you are free, do stop by and help us setup and/or tear down. Thank you. See you there!

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**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: GOING FOR THE GOLD**  
**BY PRESIDENT KATE MCMURRAY**

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As I write this in August, we're about halfway through the Olympic Games. I've always been a huge fan of the Olympics. There's something about watching people who have worked hard to reach the absolute pinnacle of their profession compete on a global stage. I was never going to be an Olympian, but when I was a teenager taking swim lessons, I used to pretend I was in an Olympic final when my teacher made our class swim extra laps. I'm definitely a better spectator than an athlete, though, so I've been watching as much coverage as I've had time for.



So now I'm wondering if there's something to be learned from the Olympics that we can apply to our everyday lives.

I've parlayed my athletic fandom into writing a new story about Olympic athletes, which I suppose is a literal way to take inspiration. I love sports romance, though, and I think there's room in the market for a few stories about elite swimmers, divers, gymnasts, etc.

But in writing the new story, I've been thinking a lot about pushing limits. Becoming an Olympic athlete is all about pushing oneself to the limit of one's body can do. That's true in just about every sport, even the ones that don't seem as athletic. Can you imagine the focus it takes to be a gold-medalist archer, for example? Athletes are always pushing limits and what's possible. Think of the gymnasts who invent new moves, the runners who run faster than anyone ever has before, any athlete who destroys a world record. Some of these athletes are literally held together by tape at this point, all in the name of pushing to be the best in the world.

I think as artists, we can sometimes be complacent, especially if we have a lot of other stuff going on in our lives. But I think it's also important to keep challenging ourselves creatively. Some of our best writing happens when we leave our comfort zones. I think we can all do amazing things if we push ourselves.

So here's my challenge to you this September: how can you push yourself to achieve more?

Set a goal that seems just out of reach. If you're generally a slow writer, set a goal to help encourage more words. If you typically only write 2,000 words a week, why not set a goal of 5,000 and really push to make that happen.

Try something new. Pick a new genre or a new setting. If you typically write historical, try a contemporary. If you usually write contemporary, throw in some paranormal elements. Stretch the boundaries of your creativity and see what new things you come up with.

Explore a new theme. Romance is a genre that always has something beyond just the central love story. Yes, love is the crux of the book, but what else is? Overcoming adversity? Finding pride in oneself or one's work? Finding the balance between two things? These are all plausible things for the characters work through.

Read a new craft book. Even after we're published, we're constantly learning as writers. There are hundreds of really good writing advice books, so why not pick up a new one? Maybe you're trying to become better at plotting or writing deep POV—there are books out there for that. Or else you can take a workshop, at a conference or through the RWA website, for example.

We as writers and creative people should constantly be challenging ourselves to be better, especially considering that the best way to win over readers is to write a great book. So why not take some Olympic inspiration and channel it into your writing this fall?♥

*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; and as Vice President of RWA/NYC. She lives in Brooklyn, NY. Visit her at [www.katemcmurray.com](http://www.katemcmurray.com).*

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### **KATHRYN HAYES "BACK TO SCHOOL" CONTEST BY VICE PRESIDENT RACHELINE MALTESE**

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Just like we are always learning and growing, our protagonists must learn in order to reach their happily-ever-after. Send us a scene showing the moment your protagonists learns something, whether the discovery is themselves or each other.



Eligibility: Authors may be unpublished, self-published, or traditionally published.

Enter: A maximum of 20 pages from an original novella or novel that is not contracted and has never been published in any form (traditional, self-published, blog etc.). Include a two-page synopsis providing a basic outline of the story and/or background leading up to the scene. The synopsis will not be judged.

Deadline: 11:59 p.m., September 15, 2016

Fee: RWA Members: \$25; Non-RWA: \$30

Judges: Published Authors

**Final Judge: Junessa Vilorio, Penguin Random House**

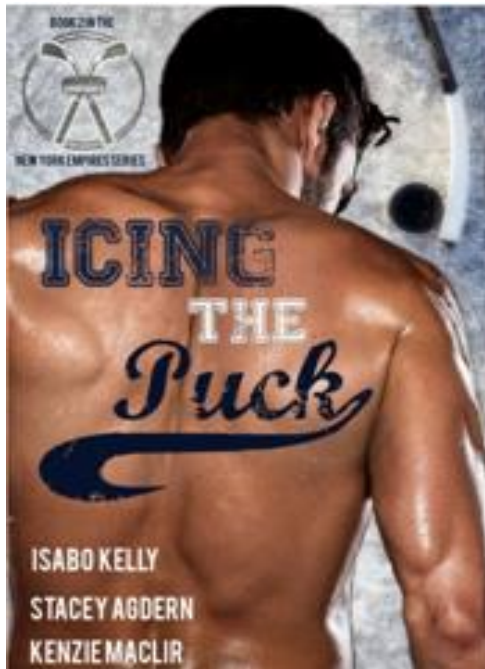
Prize: \$75.00

**Electronic Submissions Only: <http://www.rwanyc.com/entry-form.html>**

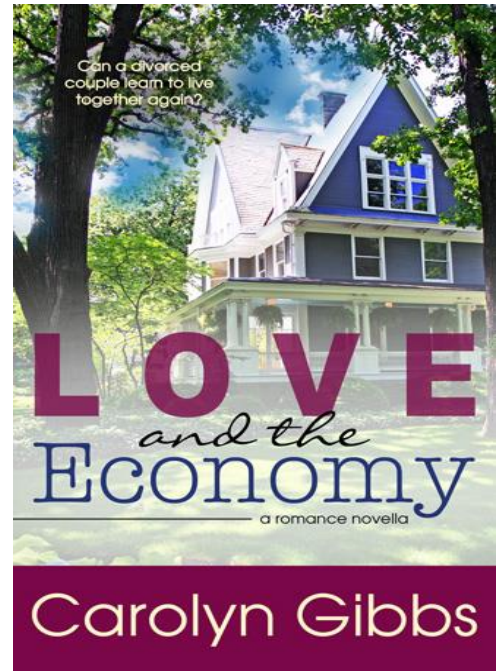
\*Our contest does not have categories, but is open to entries from any genre of romance including erotica and LGBT, and in either category or single-title lengths. For more information, entry form, and rules contact Racheline Maltese at [rwanyccontest@gmail.com](mailto:rwanyccontest@gmail.com) or visit our website [www.rwanyc.com](http://www.rwanyc.com)♥



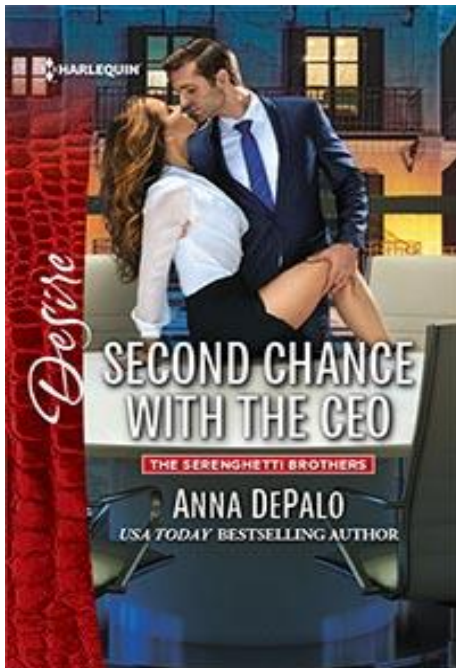
MEMBERS ON THE SHELF



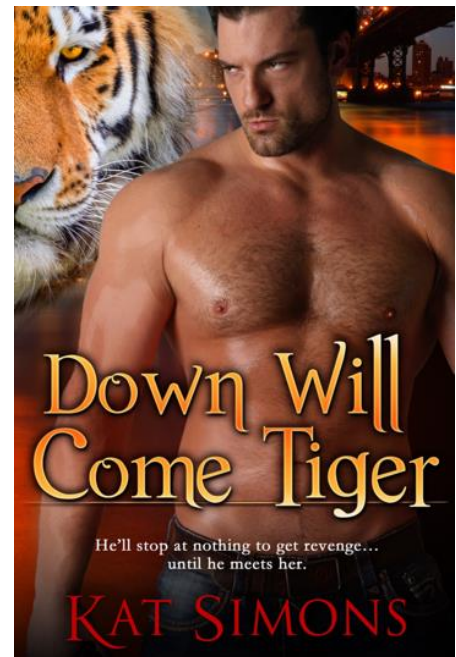
**ICING THE PUCK**  
Stories by Stacey Agdern & Isabo Kelly



**LOVE AND THE ECONOMY**  
by Carolyn Gibbs



**SECOND CHANCE WITH THE CEO**  
by Anna DePalo



**DOWN WILL COME TIGER**  
by Kat Simons

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**GOLDEN APPLE AWARDS**  
**BY VICE PRESIDENT MIMI PIZARRO LOGSDON**

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Join us on Thursday, September 22, 6:00pm for our annual GOLDEN APPLE AWARDS at The Writer's Den, 299 Madison Avenue. Please remember to RSVP and to buy your ticket at [www.rwanyc.com](http://www.rwanyc.com). Also, please follow our Awards hashtag: #GAA2016.

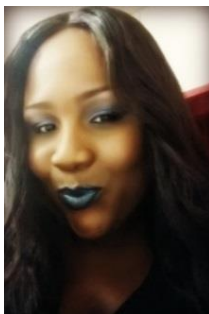


**This year's winners are:**

**Lifetime Achievement Award: Isabo Kelly**

Isabo Kelly is the award-winning author of numerous science fiction, fantasy, and paranormal romances. She also writes best-selling paranormal romance under the name Kat Simons. Her life has taken her from Las Vegas to Hawaii, where she got her BA in Zoology, back to Vegas where she looked after sharks, then on to Germany and Ireland where she got her Ph.D. in Animal Behavior. Now Isabo focuses on writing, publishing fiction of all lengths and writing a regular craft column for her Romance Writers of America chapter's newsletter. She lives in New York with her Irish husband and two beautiful boys, working as a full time writer.

For more on Isabo, visit <http://www.isabokelly.com>. You can also follow her on Twitter @IsaboKelly or friend her on Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/IsaboKelly>.

**Author of the Year: LaQuette**

LaQuette is an erotic, multicultural romance author of M/F and M/M love stories. Her writing style brings intellect to the drama. She often crafts emotionally epic, fantastical tales that are deeply pigmented by reality's paintbrush. Her novels are filled with a unique mixture of savvy, sarcastic, brazen, and unapologetically sexy characters who are confident in their right to appear on the page. This bestselling Erotic Romance Author is the 2016 Author of the Year Golden Apple Award Winner, 2016 NERFA Finalist for Erotic Romance, and the 2016 Swirl Awards Finalist in Romantic Suspense. LaQuette—a native of Brooklyn, New York—spends her time catering to her three distinct personalities: Wife, Mother,

and Educator.

**Agent of the Year: Linda Camacho, Prospect Agency**

Linda Camacho joined Prospect Agency in 2015 after a decade in publishing. She attended Cornell University and her experience since graduation created a varied background for her agenting career. She interned at Simon & Schuster and Writers House literary agency, worked at Penguin in production, and settled into children's marketing at Random House before making the move. She loves working with authors and has great empathy for them, since she also received her MFA in writing from the Vermont College of Fine Arts and understands that writing is no easy task!

**Publisher of the Year: Kensington Publishers**

Founded in 1974, Kensington Publishing Corp. is located in New York City and is known as “America’s Independent Publisher.” It remains a multi-generational family business, with Steven Zacharius succeeding his father as President and CEO, and Adam Zacharius as General Manager. As the foremost independent commercial publishing house in the United States providing hardcover, trade paperback, mass market, and digital releases, Kensington publishes the books that America wants to read.



The house of New York Times bestselling authors, including Fern Michaels, Lisa Jackson, Joanne Fluke, William W. Johnstone, and many others, Kensington publishes over 500 fiction and non-fiction titles each year. Its diverse imprints include Zebra, Pinnacle, Dafina, and Lyrical Press which are well known for providing readers with a range of popular genres such as romance, women’s fiction, thrillers, African American, young adult and nonfiction, as well as true-crime, western, and mystery titles. Visit [kensingtonbooks.com](http://kensingtonbooks.com).

**Editor of the Year: Kerri Buckley, Carina Press**

Kerri Buckley got her first taste of the great editorial adventure during a semester-long internship at The Feminist Press, a non-profit, female-centric publisher run in conjunction with the City University of New York. Thoroughly hooked, she joined Bantam Dell, a division of Random House, after graduation and stayed there for eight years, working on books by Danielle Steel, Luanne Rice, Dean Koontz, Diana Peterfreund, Eve Ensler, Anne Kreamer, and Kurt and Mark Vonnegut, among many others.

Since joining Carina Press in 2013, Kerri has been actively acquiring across all genres but has focused her list primarily in sexy contemporary romance, erotic romance, romantic suspense and erotic thrillers, and all varieties of mystery. Some of Kerri’s recent Carina Press projects include *The Asset* and *At the Brink* by Anna del Mar, *Hollywood Hot Mess* by Evie Claire, *The Good Fight* by Julianna Keyes, *Under the Spotlight* by Kate Willoughby, *Vengeful Love* by Laura Carter, and two RITA-nominated titles: *Purely Professional* by Elia Winters and *Pairing Off* by Elizabeth Harmon. She likes stubborn heroes, bossy heroines, and romances that involve just a little bit of murder and intrigue. A lifelong New Yorker, Kerri finally gave in to her in real life hero and moved across the river to suburban New Jersey. She lives in a very old, very much under construction house with her handsome electrician husband and their elderly Chihuahua, Maude. All three members of the household are eagerly awaiting the arrival of a baby boy this November.

**Media Source of the Year: Dear Author Blog**

Dear Author began in April 2006 with two friends--Jane and Jayne (Jayne with the Y). The focus was initially on reviews, but as digital publishing grew to prominence, Dear Author began to focus on the technological interplay between publishing and electronic advances. Members of Dear Author were part of the movement to bring attention to the vibrant romance community and it’s forward thinking luminaries. Romance writers have been on the forefront of every significant publishing shift in the last decade from digital first publishers to self-publishing and Dear Author has been documenting these pioneering events since the start.♥



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**FREE PROMOTION!**

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**Keynotes is a FREE Promotion Opportunity. We welcome all subjects.**

Have a new book out? Entered/won a contest? Interesting topic, research, tips to share? An event, book, conference you'd like to review? Send in your articles, news, book covers, reviews, etc., to [keynoteseditor@gmail.com](mailto:keynoteseditor@gmail.com). Articles will also be published on the Chapter Blog for DOUBLE the promotion!

**Deadline: the 15<sup>th</sup> of every month.** Take advantage of us!♥

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**ABOUT PRO**

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The purpose of the PRO Community of Practice is to establish within RWA a network of communication and support to effectively promote and protect the interests of romance writers in the areas between manuscript completion and PAN eligibility.

To help members reach the next level, PRO focuses on the business side of writing rather than craft.

This program is available to any active General or Honorary member who: (1) is not PAN-eligible and (2) has one complete original work of romance fiction of at least 20,000 words, or multiple complete original works of romance fiction which combine for a total of at least 20,000 words.♥

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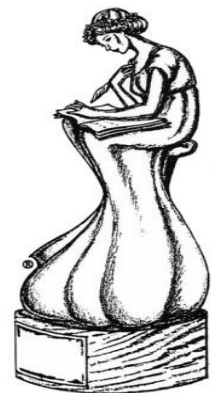
**ABOUT PAN (PUBLISHED AUTHOR NETWORK)**

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The purpose of the Published Authors Network (PAN) is to establish within the RWA framework a network of communication and support to effectively promote and protect the interests of published romance authors; to open channels of communication between those romance authors and other publishing industry professionals; and to encourage professionalism on all levels and in all relationships within the publishing industry.

To be eligible for General PAN Membership: RWA General or Honorary members in good standing should have earned at least \$1,000 on a single novel or novella that meets the definition of Romance Fiction.

To be eligible for Provisional PAN Membership: RWA General or Honorary members in good standing should have: (1) contracted for the publication of a novel or novella for an advance of at least \$1,000, but said work is not yet commercially available ("Option One"); or (2) published an novel or novella, but not yet earned \$1,000 ("Option Two").



Works offered through Predatory Publishing companies shall not qualify.♥

*Our theme this month is*

## BACK TO SCHOOL

### Writing about Young Adult & New Adult Novels



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#### **SUMMARY: FOUR ESSENTIAL TIPS ON WRITING YA FICTION BY RUTHANNE REID, FROM THEWRITEPRACTICE.COM**

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- 1) Watch Your Language.  
Teenagers do not sound like adults.
- 2) Watch your Brands & Bands.  
Be careful not to use brands and band names that may not exist next year or five years from now.
- 3) Maturity and Decision Making.  
Teens are far from stupid. YA books are about the development of maturity, not intelligence.
- 4) World-Awareness.  
Young adults are aware of what is happening outside their rooms, their school and their own country. Check out Tumblr if you don't believe it.

In conclusion, remember that Young Adults are people too!♥

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#### **SUMMARY: WRITING NEW ADULT ROMANCE BY TAMMARA WEBBER, FROM FICTIONVIXEN.COM**

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Young Adults are protagonists ages 12-18. Their stories are more coming of age stories.

New Adults are protagonists ages 17-24; more college age and sexually active. They are not Harry Potter meets 50 Shades novels.

“The majority of popular NA-labeled novels are either YA-comparable romances with slightly older characters or contemporary romances with slightly younger-than-normal characters.”

Re sex: if you are writing a YA novel, stick to a romance. If you are writing an adult book then all bets are off and you are free to write whatever you want.♥



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**PAPER DOLLS: PUPPY LOVE!**  
**BY MARIA FERRER**

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“And they called it Puppy Love....”

That Donny Osmond song never gets old. In honor of this month’s theme about writing young adult and new adult novels, I give you these young lovers.

Who are they? Are they in high school or just starting college? Is she the Brainiac? Is he the football star? Is that her BFF’s older brother? Maybe it’s his roommate’s girlfriend?

Look at them! Think angst! Think school girl crush! Think Puppy Love!

Remember a picture is worth a thousand words. Let’s play Dolls and bring our lovers to life.♥

*Maria Ferrer loved playing with paper dolls as a child and still does. She rips photographs of people and places regularly from magazines, and now with the internet she also copies photos she finds on Facebook and Twitter. As her collection grows so do the ideas in her notebook; sometimes it’s a scene; sometimes a character profile. Paper Dolls are great inspiration. Visit her at [www.marializaferrer.blogspot.com](http://www.marializaferrer.blogspot.com), and visit her alter ego, Del Carmen, at [www.mydelcarmen.com](http://www.mydelcarmen.com).*

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**CRAFT CORNER: THE MAGIC OF CHARACTER CREATION**  
**BY ISABO KELLY**

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Great characters are the most important aspect of all fiction. And while I don't subscribe to the concept that writing is magic, if there *is* a magical moment in storytelling, it happens when a writer brings a living breathing character to life on the page.

Think about that—we make this collection of random words into a person that feels so real a reader would recognize them if they bumped into them on the street. That's pretty cool.

Because good characters are so fundamental to good story, the various craft techniques for creating characters continue to be discussed even among experienced writers. In fact, very recently as I was sitting around a coffee shop table talking to a group of fabulous professional writers, I was asked: How do you handle your characters before you start writing?

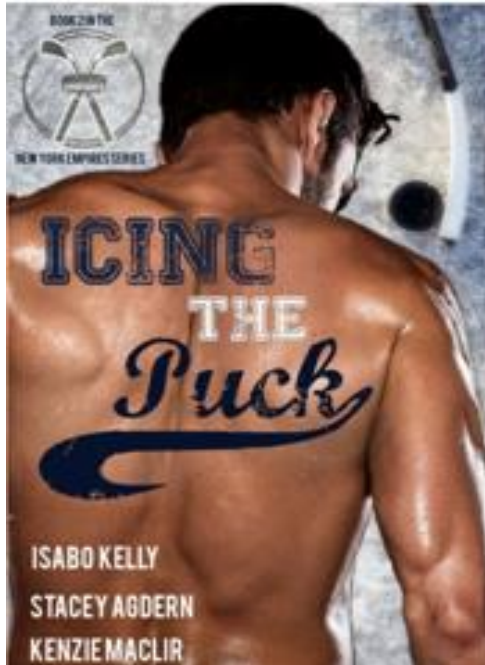
An excellent question. And it got me thinking. We all have differing ways of doing this, each designed to bring imagined beings to life for our readers. Some writers create extensive character sheets before they begin a book, others do character interviews, some make charts and others make lists of goals and motivations, some just do a lot of daydreaming, and many do a variety of these things, changing techniques for different books.

I don't really do any of the formal stuff like writing out character sheets, but I do spend a lot of time mulling over my characters before I begin a new book. Sometimes not even consciously because they're part of a future story that may be several books away from what I'm currently working on. But I know I'll be getting to their story eventually, so I let them germinate in the back of my imagination, trying to get a feel for their backstory and what makes them tick.

Sometimes, even after all this thinking, I don't really know the character until I start writing. I tend to have a generalized feel for them, but a lot of the specifics haven't been revealed yet. Every once in a while, I know absolutely nothing about them before I start, just that they exist in this situation I've concocted. But as soon as I start typing, this...person appears and starts introducing herself to me. And then other characters just come to me in a flash, and I *know them* without any effort at all.

Consider the real people that come into your life. Some you feel like you've known forever even though you've just met. Others are harder to get a read on, and you have to spend more time with them, really dig to get to know the person under the façade.

Most craft articles about character discuss the various ways to make them interesting, motivated, unique, even larger than life because that's what we read for—characters that will fascinate us and keep us reading to see what happens to them. Learning the skills of character development are important. But a collection of facts on a sheet, or answers to questions you've posed doesn't actually make up the essence of a person. It's like dating. You might know the surface that way, but really



*knowing* the person often requires some time. With a fictional character, that time is spent on the page with them in the midst of the story.

After years of writing, I've learned to trust those characters to emerge as whoever they're meant to be—no matter who I thought they were before I started writing. I get a *feel* for them, sometimes without a lot of facts to go on, and then I turn them loose on my story idea and see where they go. Many times over the years, a character has surprised me by being a completely different person to the one I originally imagined them to be. Almost always they have a depth and purpose, a strength I didn't see at first. That's exciting, and it makes the story feel a lot more authentic than the one I thought I would tell.

If you can, know some of a character's backstory before getting started—this helps a lot and gives you a good basis for the person you'll meet when you start writing. If you need to, definitely do complete character sheets with details like their first kiss and birthday. Imagine them in various scenarios to get a sense of what they would do. Do an interview, asking those penetrating questions you hope will open them up to you. Somewhere along the line it will be super important to know what your character really *wants* in life, what their goal within the story is, and what they're willing to do to achieve that goal. Pit your character against others to see how they respond and react—that will reveal a lot about them, too.

Then leave room for the magic. Or at the very least for your inner storyteller to do its thing—bring something born of nothing more than thought into the world and breathe enough life into those beings to make them feel real. Your readers will thank you.♥

*Isabo Kelly is the award-winning author of numerous science fiction, fantasy and paranormal romances. She also writes bestselling shapeshifter romances under the name Kat Simons. For more on Isabo or Kat visit their websites: [www.isabokelly.com](http://www.isabokelly.com) or [www.katsimons.com](http://www.katsimons.com).*

i am  
always  
writing a story in my  
head.



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**GOING THE INDIE ROUTE: JUST BECAUSE IT FEELS GOOD  
BY ALICE ORR**

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I have to say I'm absolutely in this for the experience, and the experience is terrific. Not every minute of course but more of the time than in all of my many previous years in publishing. Please don't make me say what year I started, but it was a long time ago.

As I have no doubt you're already sick of hearing – I've done a lot of things in the publishing business. From editor to literary agent to workshop leader. But my favorite of favorites has always been published writer. As an Indie author I love that favorite even more.

For a more cautionary report on Going Indie and an excellent article too check out Shara Moon's "Managing Expectations" in the January Keynotes issue. Everything she says is right on and should be read and re-read by those of us considering Indie and already into it as well.

You're not going to get a cautionary tale from me because I'm just over the top with what I'm doing. Indie life feels like liberation to me. Probably a lot of that is because of the many years I spent on the rule-obsessed business side of traditional publishing.

I had to impose rules on the authors I acquired for my publishing house when I was an editor. I had to impose them on my clients when I was an agent. I was a publishing author also which meant I had to impose those rules on myself while my own agent did the same.

I was fettered at every turn. I also knew first-hand that those fetters could be very arbitrary. Rules could metamorphose what sometimes seemed like overnight. We'd all be marching one way until that avenue closed – too often with little or no advance warning.

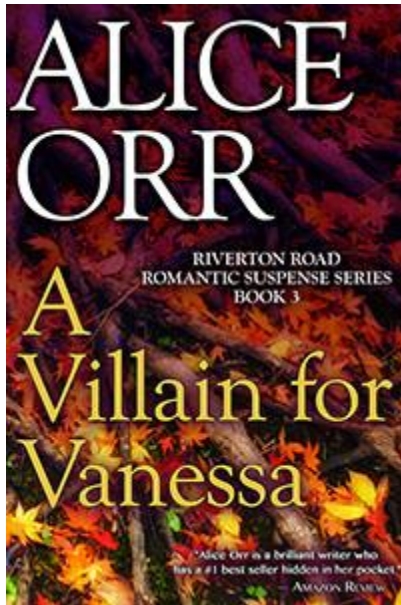
I left editing because I witnessed so much exploitation of authors there. I adored agenting because I could advocate for my clients against that exploitation. But even at its best it was a proscribed system with lots more don'ts than dos. I'm rid of all that now and Good Riddance.

I agree with Shara. The money is unpredictable at best and near to nonexistent at worst. You can choose your way of doing business but you'd better be wise about it. The same goes for the books you write and how marketable they definitely have to be.

There are time issues too. For example I'm writing this at 5 a.m. because that's the only time I have right now with a new book launching in a few days. Plus heaven knows I'm no whiz kid in the productivity department. Not in comparison with the big selling authors anyway.

All the same I feel like Ebenezer on Christmas morning when he realizes he hasn't missed the best part. He didn't sleep through the joy. I rejoice that I didn't miss the best part either because – managed expectations notwithstanding – what I'm doing and accomplishing now as an Indie author is more than I ever expected in the first place.





I'm realistic too. I know circumstances and attitudes can change, and that could happen to me. But from where I'm presently sitting, I doubt it will. I hope I'm right in that career forecast because what I'm doing now feels good. What I'm doing now is having fun and watching the sunrise.♥

*"Alice Orr is a brilliant writer who has a number one best seller in her pocket," says one Amazon reviewer. Alice loves to write. Especially romantic suspense novels and blog posts. She's been a workshop leader, book editor and literary agent. Now she lives her dream of writing full-time. So far she's published fifteen novels, three novellas and a memoir – both traditionally and independently. Alice wrote her nonfiction book, NO MORE REJECTIONS: 50 SECRETS TO WRITING A MANUSCRIPT THAT SELLS, as a gift to the writers' community. A revised edition is now in progress. Amazon says, "This book has it all." And calls her novels, "Delicious*

*well written suspense spiced with a love story." Most of all, Alice is thrilled to hear from readers. Visit her website at <http://www.aliceorrbooks.com>. Alice has two grown children and two perfect grandchildren and lives with her husband Jonathan in New York City. Visit her at <http://www.facebook.com/aliceorrwriter> and <https://www.twitter.com/AliceOrrBooks>*

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## **DON'T TAKE IT PERSONALLY**

### **BY URSULA RENÉE**

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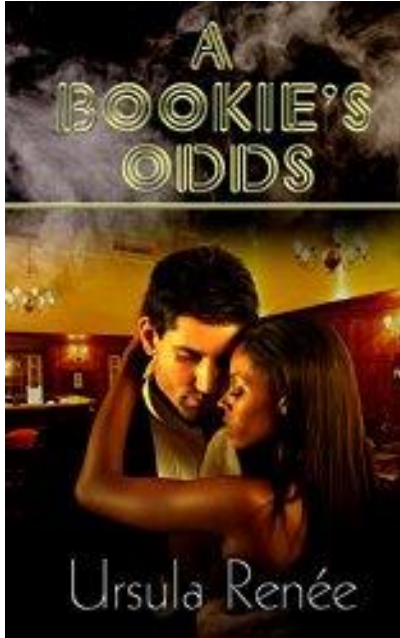
*After receiving my third rejection letter in one week, I was tempted to crawl under the covers until the next millennium. However, since I do not have enough money squirreled away to pay the bills while I lick my wounds for the next 984 years, I decided to reread and follow the advice I wrote for the September 2012 KEYNOTES.*

You developed characters who are closer to you than your best friends; created a world that is so real, you'd swear you vacationed there; and devised a plot that holds the reader's interest from start to finish. Confident that your novel is ready to make its debut, you write a query letter, attach the manuscript then submit it to the editor of your dreams.

After weeks of functioning with one eye on your inbox, you spy a message amongst the many notes that fill your box. Anxious to read the terms of your contract, you open the link, only to find that it is not the message you have been hoping for.

As you read "I regret, I'm going to pass," you wonder, who the hell does she think she is. Obviously, the editor doesn't know what she's talking about, 'cause let's face it, if she knew anything, she'd be a *New York Times* Bestseller Author.





You may also question your future as a writer; wondering whether you have what it takes to get ahead. Maybe you'll consider taking your mother's advice, abandon your little hobby and devote your energy to more serious pursuits.

It is all right to feel angry and disappointed. They are valid emotions. However, you should not let those emotions control you.

Step back and take a day or two to regroup. During this time, you should do something extra special for yourself (i.e. indulge in your favorite comfort food or take the evening off and watch a favorite movie).

During this time, remember that you are not a failure. There are many people who talk, plan and wish, but never do. That is not you. You completed a manuscript, which is a major accomplishment.

After a few days, go back and reread the letter the editor sent. If you were lucky to get a personalized letter, review any suggestions that she made that could help you polish your manuscript. You may not agree with all the suggestions, but it is worth giving them some consideration.

Do not contact the editor and give her a piece of your mind. It is unprofessional and childish. Though we have seen stories of people who have fought back, there are few who have done so and come out on top.

Also, unless the editor specifically asks you to make corrections and resubmit, do not send her the manuscript again. She's already read it once and made up her mind. Do not turn into a stalker. Move on.

Though a rejection of your manuscript may feel like an attack against you, do not take it personally and do not give up. Remember, what one editor may not like, another may love. Very few authors have made it big on the first try. Many faced years of rejections before they found the person who was willing to work with them.

Therefore, review your manuscript and then send it out again and, if you have to, again, until you find the person who believes in your work as much as you do.♥

*Ursula Renée is Past President of RWA/NYC. She writes historical, multicultural romances set between World War I and the 1960s. When she is not writing, Ursula enjoys photography. Visit Ursula at [www.ursularenee.com](http://www.ursularenee.com).*

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**EMBRACING MY PARTICULAR BRAND OF CRAZY  
BY LAQUETTE**


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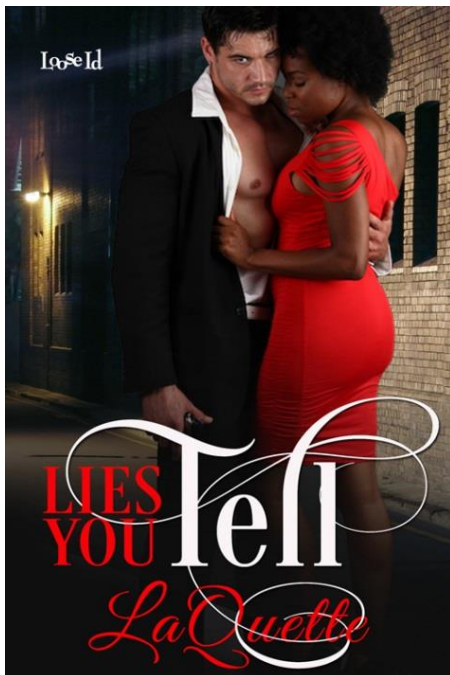
**AFTER I TYPE “THE END”**

When people find out I’m an author, one of the first things they usually comment on is how exceptional it is to be able to create such a massive, detail-oriented task such as writing a book. They almost always follow that comment with this question: What’s the secret to writing and completing a book? They want to know all your little tricks for staying on task and completing what will certainly be yet another masterpiece in your catalogue. Rarely does anyone ask what you do when it’s over.

Having a rewarding post manuscript completion ritual is just as important as all your other tricks of the trade. Why? Very simply put, it allows you to decompress and keeps you from burning yourself out. Writing is both mentally and emotionally exhaustive at times. Falling out of one book and right back into another can stilt your productivity. So between typing, “The End,” and beginning your first-round edits, or jumping into the next WIP, do something that allows you to engage in brainless fun. My after party is binge watching my DVR’d TV Shows. All those missed episodes of Sleepy Hollow, Teen Wolf, Law & Order, and NCIS make me stop thinking and provides my overused brain cells with a much-needed break.

What do you do to decompress after a story? Whatever it is, make certain it allows you to step away from those crazy characters completely and just go have some fun.

Thanks for spending a little time with me. This is LaQuette, your friendly erotic romance author, embracing my crazy...one character at a time.



*2015 Georgia Romance Writers Maggie Award Finalist in Erotic Romance, 2015 Swirl Awards Finalist in Romantic Suspense, bestselling erotic romance author, LaQuette, is a native of Brooklyn, New York. She spends her time catering to her three distinct personalities: Wife, Mother, and Educator. LaQuette loves hearing from readers and discussing the crazy characters that are running around in her head causing so much trouble. Contact her on Facebook, Twitter, @LaQuetteLikes, her website, [www.NovelsbyLaQuette.com](http://www.NovelsbyLaQuette.com), Amazon, her Facebook group, LaQuette's Lounge, and via email at [NovelsbyLaQuette@gmail.com](mailto:NovelsbyLaQuette@gmail.com).*

*LaQuette's new book, LIES YOU TELL, from LooseID will be released on September 13. Watch for it!*

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**HOT ROMANCE: AUTHOR ELIZABETH COLE ON CREATING THE IDEAL KNIGHT  
BY A.C. ROSE**

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Elizabeth Cole has a passion for history, and she loves writing romance. She blends the two by writing sexy historical romance books. She penned the sexy regency romantic suspense series, *Secrets of the Zodiac*. And now she is onto the *Swordcross Knights Series*, sexy medieval romances that takes place in the world of Britannia during the period known as "The Anarchy."

We chatted with her about the release of book two in the series, *CHOOSE THE SKY*, the love story of Lady Domina and Sir Luc of Braecon.

**Many authors have a defining moment, a thing that moved them toward working hard to write and publish their work. When did you first know you wanted to write sexy romance books?**

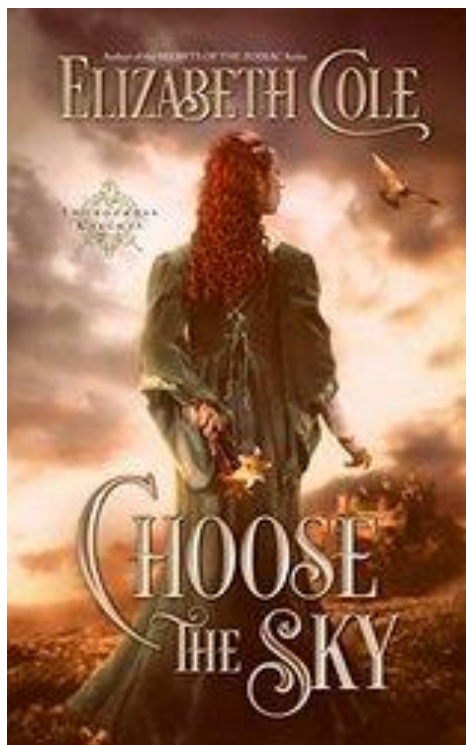
Elizabeth Cole: I've always loved writing, but my first attempts were short stories that tended to fit into science fiction or fantasy. A novel seemed far too challenging to complete. However, I'm a lifelong *reader* of romance, and after reading a really poorly written one (no, it's not a Bestselling Famous Novel), I kind of snapped and said, "I can do better than that!" So my first completed novel was a romance, and I loved writing it. I love the conventions of the genre, the push and pull of the relationships, and the strong emphasis on the female protagonist's development. As a feminist, romance is actually a very satisfying thing to read and write. There is such a lot of ground to cover when the story is so focused on a central relationship. I intend to keep writing romance until I die.

**Your novels tend to be sexy historical fiction. Do you think that will continue to be your genre or will you write in other genres as well?**

EC: I love so many genres. In romance, I write both hot and sweet stories, though I'll admit, hot sells much better! I focus on historical, specifically the regency period as well as medieval England (I do have a Viking series planned, which will likely be my spiciest series yet). I also intend to write some present-day PNR [Paranormal Romances], inspired by my deep love for *Buffy* and also playing White Wolf RPGs [role-playing games] in my formative years. In addition, I love mystery, so I want to branch out there too. And of course, I have a few epic fantasy novels tucked away. Maybe I'll get to those in a few years!

**Tell us about your newest book, *CHOOSE THE SKY*. What can fans expect?**

EC: *CHOOSE THE SKY* is set in Britain in 1141. If you hate strong, tough knights, or really independent ladies, or the threat of conspiracy, or hot sex scenes during long cold winter evenings in a castle...then you should read something else. Because *Choose the Sky* has all of that! It's part of a series focused on four very different knights who nevertheless have a strong bond — their lives intersect over the series, but each book features one hero as he meets and wins the woman he wants. I felt that historical romance needed some more medievals (other than the mountain of Scottish Highlander books, of course), so I went ahead and wrote these books, using all the wonderful history and romance of the era. There's a bit of politics, a bit of espionage, a *lot* of battles (both of blade and of wit), and lush description of the world.



Tell us a little bit about the sexy hero in CHOOSE THE SKY, which is book two in your **Swordcross Knights series**.

EC: I adored creating Sir Luc of Braecon, because I got to play with the “ideal knight” trope. Luc is a skilled fighter, very charming, and quite ambitious. He thinks he’s got everything figured out, but of course, he’s about to learn that isn’t true. So he’s sexy and strong, but he’s also actually very introspective. He’s constantly trying to balance the many goals a nobleman of this time period is supposed to hold. He wants to be a true knight who defends the weak, but he also wants to be politically successful and uphold his family name. He has a few secrets as well...so those complicate things! Basically, he wants to be the ideal man, and I think readers will enjoy watching him learn what that means over the course of the book. He’s used to getting what he wants, and then runs into a solid wall of ice when he meets the heroine, Domina de Warewic. Winning her over becomes his all-consuming desire. And doesn’t that sound intriguing?

**When you craft a hero, are you incorporating traits from men you know, or are you writing about a man you have**

**never met, but would like to?**

EC: I first try to understand how the hero of any story will interact with the heroine. Depending on the tone of the book, he may need to complement her qualities, or clash with them. All my heroes do need to be admirable, though. (When was the last time you loved a romance novel about a schmuck?) Some might be noble and sort of the ultimate good guy, while others might be more of a dark hero or perhaps something in-between, but they all have a strong sense of self. That’s a sexier trait than great abs. I like to mix “alpha” and “beta” qualities because it makes for a more complex and human hero. As for details, I freely grab things from people I know in real life, or film characters, or people I read about in articles, or historical figures. I mix it up and see what clicks. No matter what, I need my characters to learn and grow — they’re definitely not perfect, and they are altered by their meeting and falling in love with someone else. Many of my characters start out being independent (and very proud of that), but I adore it when my characters discover exactly how much they need another person in their life. And how that creates vulnerability but also new strength, because they have something beyond themselves to care about.♥

*Find out more about Elizabeth Cole at her website: <http://elizabethcole.co/>*

*Books by Elizabeth Cole: <http://elizabethcole.co/choose-the-sky/>*

*A.C. Rose is a love, romance, and entertainment columnist and author of steamy romance books.*

*Look for her forthcoming romances, STAY AFTER CLASS and AROUSAL. Visit her at <http://acroseauthor.net/>.*

*Read the full interview here:*

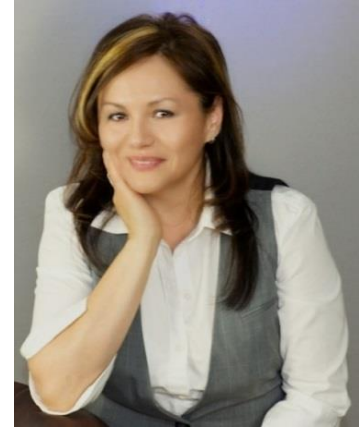
*<http://threetomatoes.com/author-elizabeth-cole-on-creating-the-ideal-knight>*



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**HELLO AND WELCOME TO MY WRITING DEN!©**  
**BY MARIA COX**

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**READ, READ, READ**

We writers hear this all the time, “If you want to be a better writer, you need to be a better reader.” This is very true. But, what is also true is that we need to read effectively. See, reading effectively can help make a huge difference in the quality of work we produce.

Below are tips to ensure you’re getting the most out of your reading experience:

**1) Be sure to read books you enjoy.**

Reading should be enjoyable so reading *mandatory* books (e.g. classics, poems, non-fiction etc.) might be counterintuitive. Read what you enjoy and you’re likely to read more.

**2) Read the type of material you aspire to produce.**

If you wish to be a best-selling author, you should be reading books written by best-selling authors. Find an author you admire and read as much of his/her work as possible; devour their work actually.

**3) Keep a log of the books you’ve read.**

Keep an online journal of authors and titles, if you’re ‘old school’ keep a paper journal.

Goodreads allows members to maintain an online book log. Members can also create shelves and assign books to be read; books can be rated and reviewed. For those of you not familiar with Goodreads, I highly encourage you to visit their website and become familiar with its community of readers and writers.

I’ll share with you that last year around the holidays I made a commitment to read 24 novels in 2016. I posted my commitment on my Goodreads dashboard and I’m happy to say that to date I’ve read 14 books!

Happy summer reading.♥

*Maria Cox is a PRO member of Romance Writers of America; she has also served as President of the Phoenix Writers Club. She has been writing stories since she was a young girl. She picked up her first romance novel when she was just eleven years old and has loved the genre ever since. Maria writes sensual romance, stories that showcase strong, sassy, and sexy characters. When not writing fiction, Maria works as a technical writer. She lives in Queens, New York. Please visit her site [www.mariacox.net](http://www.mariacox.net) and/or follow her on Twitter.*





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**FINDING NEW ROMANCE AUTHOR FRIENDS AFTER RELOCATING: RWA/NYC VS SAN DIEGO**  
**BY LISA SIEFERT**

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Relocating without a job and on a whim is usually reserved for those in their 20's. But I made the leap last year when I turned 42. I loved New York but after 8 years, it was time for a change.

Prior to relocating, I had never been to San Diego and knew absolutely no one. But I was ready for year-round sunshine and now that I have it, I can't figure out why I didn't make this move earlier.

Like any single girl who moves to a new place, I took a multi-pronged approach to meeting new local author friends:

1. **RWA San Diego (SD)** This one might seem obvious - I joined the local RWA chapter.
  - a. **Big vs Small** The SD chapter actually has more members than the NYC chapter so you have the opportunity to meet three times the number of potential writer friends. But small chapters like NYC are still amazing. When I arrived for my 1st RWA/NYC meeting, it was the Holiday Brunch and Lise Horton gave me a huge hug and personally introduced me to many people who are still my favorite author friends today. And that's not counting all of the personalized emails Lise sent me prior to that getting to know me. If it weren't for Lise, I wouldn't have any of the NY writing friends I still keep in touch with today! But the SD Prez was also super nice and even gave me Signed By Author stickers for my indie signing at RWA, as well as great advice on what to do.
  - b. **Schedule** The SD chapter organizes speakers many months in advance and even the lunch menu is communicated out a year in advance. All SD meetings are held at a local motel in a central part of the city so that was nice to be able to plan which speakers are pertinent or not applicable to your interest area or subgenre.
  - c. **Yahoo and Facebook Group** Both have Yahoo Groups for communication and the SD chapter also has a closed Facebook Group.
2. **Random Facebook Private Messages (PM's) to local authors** By pure luck, the President of the one of the online chapters was local to me. I contacted her via Facebook and asked her if she wanted to meet up in person for coffee and I was delighted and surprised when she actually said yes. Alana Albertson was not only a hugely successful romance author but also extremely nice, helpful and one of the most supportive local author friends I have made since moving here. In addition to writing, Alana is a mom, wife and business owner so finding time to write together isn't always easy but luckily I'm spoiled because she makes the one hour trek from the suburbs into the city to meet up for co-writing at various coffee shops in town. Did I mention I'm still afraid of driving and miss using my MTA card?

3. **Non-RWA Sources** I've pretty much come up empty for venturing outside of RWA-related functions and sources. Despite the fact that there are 13 members (including myself) who are part of the GoodReads group: Lady Jane Salon - San Diego, there doesn't seem to be any activity within the group.
4. **Venturing out to Bloggers** Luckily, I'm also a fitness blogger so through that network, I was able to meet many local friends the same way I met Alana. I simply PM'd them on Facebook and voila, we're the bestest of friends now. There is actually a very large percentage of online bloggers and home-based entrepreneurs who reside in San Diego. Bloggers, just like authors, need time to write. And many bloggers are on tight, sometimes daily self-imposed deadlines so learning their organizational techniques was helpful, especially social media posting.
5. **Venturing out to Co-working Spaces** Hera Hub is an all-women's entrepreneurial co-working space that is designed to look and feel like a luxury spa, which it does! They have set hours for group writing times each week and have 2 great locations in San Diego. Hera Hub's large tables and modern interior design make it the perfect spot to informally meet and work alongside other women in a positive and beautiful environment where I was able to connect with authors, bloggers and entrepreneurs everywhere and at all stages of their business. Everyone there has a great can-do, positive attitude that is infectious and helps to keep you motivated during those writers block slumps. No dream is too silly or too big. Just like RWA, every woman is here to support and empower you, not compete with you.

With a little effort and a little patience, moving to a new city and establishing a new base of local writing friends and supportive girlfriends can easily be achieved. Please let me know if you ever venture out this way and we'll schedule a co-working session together in San Diego!♥

*Lisa Siefert is a contemporary romance writer who also gives romance writers their happily ever after fit body and bestseller lifestyle through her Fit & Wordy Girl products. For a FREE F&W Girl Planner, go to <http://bit.ly/bestsellerlife>.*

I get inspired by my  
friends, and if a  
friend is a writer, that  
is even deeper

Nick Flynn

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