

# KEYNOTES



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*The newsletter of the Romance Writers of America / New York City Chapter #6 MARCH 2018*

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**NEXT MEETING: SATURDAY, MARCH 3**

**LOCATION: TRS, 40 EXCHANGE PLACE, 3<sup>RD</sup> FLOOR, 12-4PM**

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**TOPIC: STANDING OUT IN THE SLUSH PILE**

**SPEAKERS:** Madeleine Colavita from Forever Romance & Elle Keck from Avon



Madeleine Colavita is an Editor at Forever Romance. She's looking for stories and writing that take her someplace new. She's looking for heroes that she can fall in love with and heroines who can become her best friends, and she never says no to reading about sweethearts reunited. Follow her on Twitter at @m\_colavita.



Growing up, Assistant Editor Elle Keck thought she'd spend her life in the hallowed halls of academia, churning out papers on nineteenth century Britain. Alas, that was not in the cards, but thankfully, she was able to combine her knowledge of pelisses and petticoats with her passion for historical romances. An avid reader of all things Avon, she was delighted to join the team in 2014 where she edits a fantastic list of smart, gripping, and bestselling romances. Elle's always on the hunt for high-concept historical romances that make her laugh and make her cry, super sexy contemporary romances that feature rough and ready alpha males, and inclusive romances of all kinds. If you enjoy musings on the latest tv show she's bingeing, feminist rants, pictures of her cats, and lots of pop culture ramblings, follow her on twitter at @ellekeck. Follow her on Twitter at @ElleKeck.




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## CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

LaQuette, Barbara James, Jean Joachim,  
Falguni Kothari, Alice Orr, Ursula Renée,  
Ruby Scalera, Jennifer Welsh

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## MEETING INFORMATION

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.

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

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## APRIL THEME

### FOOL FOR LOVE

*How do you add humor & fun to your writing?*

PLUS! We welcome articles on all topics, book reviews, conference notes, etc., etc.

DEADLINE: 15<sup>th</sup> of the month

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## 2018 CHAPTER CALENDAR

Jan 6	Feb 3	Mar 3	Apr 7	May 5	Jun 2
Jul 7	Aug 4	Sep 8	Oct 6	Nov 3	Dec 1

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## RWA/NYC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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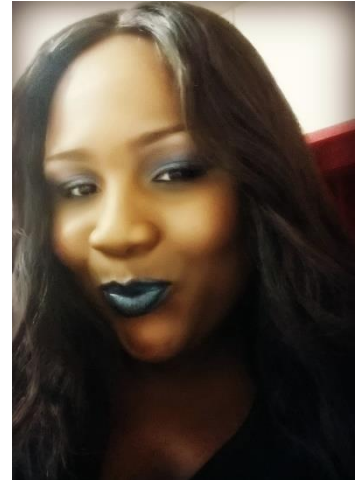
## KEYNOTES DEADLINE

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. Send pictures as attachments; not in article

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**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:  
HOW MUCH DO YOU REALLY WANT IT?  
BY LAQUETTE**

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The road to publication is not for the faint of heart.

You've got to decide early on how badly you want to be a published author before you choose to walk this path. Otherwise, you'll find yourself sitting by the wayside asking, "Is this worth it?"

Twenty-four years ago, I began reading romance. I was a sixteen-year-old high school junior who fell in love with Carole Mortimer's *The Devil's Price*. That book was everything to me. I read it and re-read it until the cover fell to pieces. I actually still have the tattered book somewhere in my basement. It was such a great book, and each read left me sighing with satisfaction.

Over the years I read many great books like Ms. Mortimer's. But, soon I wasn't sighing with satisfaction anymore. Instead, I was wondering, "Why are there no people who look, live, and love like me in these books?" When I couldn't find representation in the stories I was reading, I decided I would write it myself.

I wrote my first book just to see a woman like me on the page. Although it was horrible (and trust me, it was horrible), I was so excited because a woman like me was getting to experience love in this very grand way. That first book, written at age eighteen would go on to become *Heart of the Matter*, the first book in my *Queens of Kings* series—after many revisions, that is.

Anyone from the outside looking in would see how well that series sold for me and ask, "Where is the hard time?" Believe me, not everything is as easy as it seems. Although I've been blessed to work with some amazing small presses, it's been a struggle to break into larger traditional houses. With more and more small presses closing, that means getting published with the backing of a publisher is getting harder and harder for every author, doubly so for those of us that write diverse romance.


There are those that will counter my above statement with what would appear to be the obvious alternative to traditional publishing, independent, self-publishing. Yes, indie publishing is an alternative, but it's also expensive and time consuming—if it's to be done correctly. It's not as easy as everyone thinks it is, nothing ever really is.

Although independent publishing is a viable alternative to traditional publishing (or a viable first choice if that's your jam), no author should be forced to take that path, because access is blocked to their preferred method of publication. Not every author wants to take on all of that responsibility. Some authors just want to write.



Now comes the time when hard decisions have to be made. How badly do I want to continue publishing? Is my love of writing in this genre strong enough to make me stay the course even though some days it can look very bleak? Do I just get frustrated and throw in the towel and go back to teaching?

My answer is this. Writing romance is what I was born to do. This is where my passion lies. Whatever, however, I've got to make that dream a reality, I will continue to do so. I will continue to put myself out there, to submit, even when rejection seems inevitable. Why? The answer is simple because I've got to be in the game to win it. The only failure is not trying at all.

I am LaQuette, and I am a romance author, and regardless of the changes in the industry, that will always remain my truth. The question you have to ask yourself is will it continue to be yours. How much do you really want it? 

*LaQuette-President of RWA/NYC, is the 2016 Golden Apple Award Author of the year winner. She writes bold & sexy tales for diverse characters who are confident in their right to appear on the page. Represented by Latoya C. Smith of the L. Perkins Agency. Visit her at [NovelsbyLaQuette.com](http://NovelsbyLaQuette.com) and [LaQuette@NovelsbyLaQuette.com](mailto:LaQuette@NovelsbyLaQuette.com)*




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## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

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**LAST CALL! Dues are due on March 3.**

**Remember to renew your Chapter Membership today** at [www.rwanyc.com](http://www.rwanyc.com) OR use the renewal form at the end of this newsletter.

To renew online, go to "Members Only" section. Password is **membersonly**.♥

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## EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE: NOVEMBER 3

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Mark your calendar for Saturday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>. RWA/NYC is having a mini-conference.

**Keynote speakers: authors Piper Huguley and Farrah Rochon.**

Details will follow shortly. Meanwhile, think about volunteering. ♥





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**NEW MEMBERS!**

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Kit Bihun  
Lauren Accado  
Daphne Chase

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**CHAPTER MINUTES: FEBRAURY  
BY SECRETARY JENNIFER WELSH**

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*Attendance: 20 members*

**President LaQuette brought the meeting to order 12:11pm.**

Motion to approve meeting minutes by Harper Miller and Alexis Daria seconded.

**Brooklyn Book Festival** - Michael Molloy will again spearhead the festival organization. The date is set for September 16th. Members are encouraged to come and volunteer. Harper will work with Michael on some publicity.

**Treasurer's Report** - \$4, 349.15 - Paid TRS (meeting space) for six month

**Secretary's Report** - 89 members. Renewal deadline is March 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Golden Apples** – Alexis is actively looking at venues and will update once she had more information.

**Kathryn Hayes Contest** - The contest will be publicized in RWR by Feb 10th. Harper is looking for judges to commit for September. Please contact Harper to volunteer.

**Newsletter** - Keynotes theme – Marching Toward Publishing. Tell us your trials and triumphs. Articles due 15th of every month. Think about submitting - Also if you write something on your personal blog she can incorporate that into the newsletter as well.

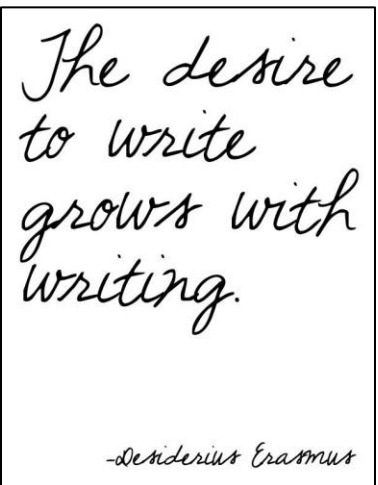
**Mini Con-** LaQuette given an overview of the event  
Farrah Rochon and Piper Huguley confirmed! Nov 3rd 9-5 --  
Educational con - in need of volunteers for the committee, Laura,  
Harper, LaQuette and Maria C.

**Social Media/Blog** - Maria F. has been working on publicity - Book Cover Friday is going strong. Remember to include RWA/NYC in marketing and publicity plan. Mare brought copies of the newsletter and treats to the meeting. Thank you Maria.

Round Robins begins.

**Chapter meeting adjourned at 12:21**

Speaker: Megan Frampton on Revising.♥





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**MEMBER NEWS**


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**Alexis Daria** spoke on a panel at Word and Dobbin St. Present Galentine's Day. Also on the panel were Tessa Bailey, Sarah MacLean and Maya Rodale.

**K.M. Jackson** has a new series from Kensington due out in October. The first book in her Sugar Lake series is entitled: AS GOOD AS THE FIRST TIME.

**Jean Joachim** received her 35-books published pin from RWA. In 2017, two of her books were finalists: AL "TRUNK" MAHONEY, DEFENSIVE LINE was a finalist in the Denver RWA contest in the erotic/hot/sexy category; and UNPREDICTABLE LOVE was a 5<sup>th</sup> Place Winner in the Oklahoma RWA International Digital Awards contest.

**Falguni Kothari** read at Lady Jane's Salon Anniversary bash. Copies of her book were distributed.

**Hope Tarr** will make her women's historical fiction debut soon with IRISH EYES. It will span 25-years from the Gilded Age through the Jazz Age in Manhattan, as seen through the eyes of spirited Irish-born Rose O'Neill. ♥

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**KEW & WILLOW BOOKS EVENT  
BY URSULA RENÉE**


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On Tuesday, February 13, 2018, readers at Kew & Willow Books for a Galentine's Day Romance Panel featuring **Isabo Kelly, Kay Blake, Joan Regen-Ramirez, Autumn Sand and Ursula Renée.**

The authors read excerpts and answered questions about the romance genre, their books and their writing process. And, though the turnout was small it was an enjoyable affair that paid respect to a genre that offers readers hope.



Kew & Willow Books was established in 2017 by Vina Castillo, Natalie Noboa and Holly Nikodem, booksellers who sought to fill a need in the community after Barnes and Nobles closed the doors to all their Queens locations. ♥

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**LADY JANE'S SALON GOES BIMONTHLY**


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It was announced at the 9th Salon anniversary on February 5th, going forward Lady Jane's will meet every other month. Dates for the remainder of 2018 are as follows:

MONDAYS --- April 2; June 4; August 6;  
October 1; and December 3



Location is still the same: Madame X (94 W Houston, between Thompson & LaGuardia) from 7-9pm. ♥

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**TOP TEN TAKEAWAYS FROM MEGAN FRAMPTON'S PRESENTATION: REVISIONS  
BY BARBARA JAMES**

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At last month's chapter meeting, we were fortunate to have Megan Frampton discuss with us the importance of revisions. Megan writes early Victorian era historical romances for Avon. She lives in Brooklyn, New York.

Revising one's work can be a challenge, but it is an important part of the writing process. Her tips offer us a means of getting the most out of it. She gave as examples, instances when her editor or beta readers gave her in-depth critiques of her manuscript.

How to respond?

1. Take a break and step back. You can't be an effective critic of your work if you can't be objective.
2. Skim through the entire manuscript without editing or doing anything. It is important to have a global view of the manuscript and a plan for the revision.
3. Think carefully about what needs to be done. Look at what can be salvaged. What will you need to rewrite? What will you need to add?
4. Know the story, because that will help you assess the manuscript as you go forward with your revisions.
5. Recognize what you are good at. Use your strengths as you rewrite.
6. Keep the romantic arc flowing. As you edit and revise, you will pull text from different places. It is thus easy for the flow of the story to become disrupted.
7. Every scene must have a purpose. Scenes should propel the story forward.
8. Assess and understand the characters' conflicts through the course of the novel. See them through their final resolution.
9. Questions for beta readers and critique partners: Do you like the story and its arc? Do you like the characters? Is the story credible? How does the pacing work? Are there inconsistencies that should be addressed?
10. Edit for diction and grammar. Is the language appropriate for the characters' time and place? Ungrammatical sentences can be a distraction. ♥

*Barbara James is an avid romance reader and a former academic writer who became inspired to write her own novels. Visit her at [www.barbarajames.net](http://www.barbarajames.net).*

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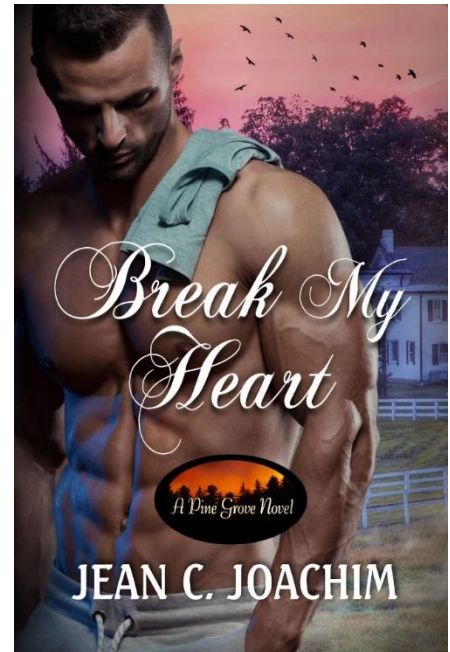
**WHAT TO DO WHILE YOU'RE WAITING TO BE PUBLISHED: PART 1**  
**BY JEAN JOACHIM**

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Whether you're self-published, traditionally published or published by a small press, chances are you will have to market your own book to some extent. If you've gotten a contract with a publisher and are waiting for your book to be released, you may wonder if there's anything you can do ahead of time to increase sales.

Yes, there are many things you can do. Here's a partial list:

- 1) Make friends on social media. Pick the medium you are most comfortable with, Facebook, Instagram, Pinterest, Twitter, Quora, Google Plus, or any others you know.
- 2) I'm most conversant with Facebook, so I'll talk about that.
  - a) Have a personal page and an author page.
  - b) Research authors who write in your genre. Join their groups, comment on their posts, support them in any way you can. When your release day comes, they may share your news, or post it on their page.
  - c) Be friendly, ask people for their opinion. I get the most comments on my posts that ask for favorite ice cream flavors, or holidays or colors. Keep posts positive, and upbeat.
  - d) Avoid controversial topics, like politics or religion. If you have to make a statement about something that's your passion, don't do it often. If someone posts something incendiary or starts a ruckus with someone on your page, simply delete their comment. It's your page, you're in charge.
  - e) Comment on posts you see in your feed. Be positive or sympathetic.
  - f) Post things you learned while writing your book. Talking about a fact you researched or a culture will get people interested in your work even before it comes out.
  - g) Start a Facebook group based around your hobby or special interest. I've got a Crock Pot Cooking group on Fb with over 80 members. Although you can't promote your book there, you can mention you have one coming out.
  - h) Don't friend people you don't know. Friending total strangers will get you into trouble.
  - i) Don't bring anyone into your group unless they want to be there. That's more likely to get your unfriended and blocked than to make friends.





- j) Join groups where you have a common interest. Although I no longer have a pug, I belong to several pug groups.
- 3) If you don't have one, start a blog. It's free on [www.blogspot.com](http://www.blogspot.com). Blog about anything. When I run dry, I post "5 Fast Facts About..." and it can be anything from New York State to Food in Victorian England.
- 4) Read books by authors in your genre, and, if you like the book, leave a good review. Authors appreciate this. You will have made a friend who might help you get noticed.
- 5) It's hard to make sales on a single title. The best thing you can do to sell your book is to write another one! ♥

*Jean Joachim is an award-winning, multi-published author of contemporary and military romances, of romantic suspense and sweet romances. Visit her at [www.jeanjoachimbooks.com](http://www.jeanjoachimbooks.com).*



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**MONTHLY THEME:*****MARCHING TOWARD PUBLISHING***

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**THE OVERWHELMING SIZE OF THE...UM...INDUSTRY  
OR ADMITTING YOU CAN'T READ THEM ALL  
BY RUBY SCALERA**

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Like many romance, chick-lit and erotica fans, I've been reading the genre for ages. Of course, if you start young, your interests change and you begin to accept different sub-genres, series, and media into your life, but because you love the genre more, not less.

Over the past two years, I've been writing, publishing, and editing my own work within the field of romance and erotic stories. Recently, I've had several

stories picked up by ebook publishers, and even more recently, I have begun, and in some cases, completed the process of editing and finalizing these stories for publication. It's been an incredible journey, and I know I can't wait to see where it takes me.

Up until my acceptances, I had allowed myself romance novels as a treat. They were my delicious dessert at the end of a long day. I usually read them alongside other, more serious books, and I still do, but I didn't prioritize them. They were fun, enjoyable, and delightful, and to me, they remained a reward after a hard day at work.

As I began to see some success with my personal books, I also started to understand how much I needed to be deeply involved in the genre. I very much enjoy listening to romance audiobooks, and I found that, listening to several stories, ideas and excitement for and about my work soared. Reading or listening to two or three stories at once, I became a machine of general artistic enthusiasm about romance – and probably pretty obnoxious to those who are close to me.

The opposite occurred, as well. Once I allowed my reading habits to slow, or if an audiobook finished and I hadn't already downloaded another, I would also see a dip in my excitement and interest, no longer surrounded by romance, and therefore reminded of the industry and its intense (and let's admit, it's intense,) hold over me.



Romance novels have now gone from a treat to the best form of research. The more I read and listen, the more I understand how much I need to read and listen, because now that I have made a concerted effort to dive deeply into this industry, which I so in love, the more I realize that it's really big.

Let's talk about the size of the industry for a moment. According to the Harlequin, the publisher long associated with romance, they produce more than 110 books a month. *110 books a month*. From a single publishing house. You're looking at more than thirteen hundred books in a single year, from a single press in a single genre. Since their start, in 1949, Harlequin claims to have produced more than 6.28 billion books. You could read every moment of every day of your life and still not have the time to finish them all.

And that's for a single press, albeit a big one, but still. Way back when, before the rise of the Internet, Amazon, and ebooks, there were a handful of major presses that were known for their romantic endeavors, such as Harlequin. Now, they're everywhere, smaller ebook and print presses that can now actually manage to keep up with the Goliath, as the whole face of the publishing industry turns on its axis.



It's not as expensive to produce ebooks, which means writers get paid more, and internet and online marketing have revolutionized the changing face of communication. You're looking at hundreds, if not thousands of small presses producing audiobooks, ebooks, and print books, in every level of the genre, from traditional Regency romance to gay Donald Trump stories, which hit the top of Amazon's bestseller list in 24 hours.

Because none of this takes into account the number of novels and short stories that fall under Amazon's self-publishing program, several of which I was contributing until just last month. I'd be happy as a clam when my novels dipped into the 60,000 bestseller mark, which some of them did. Others hovered in the low millions. *Millions*. Just to add to the pile.

Okay, so how do you tackle an industry that literally produced books by the billions, as a reader? Well, short of becoming a recluse and spending your days pouring over the stories of cowboys, dukes, and pirates, rather than doing laundry, eating, or ever seeing another human, you have to prioritize. Is it more important to read every book a single author wrote – I'm on my Eloisa James kick right now, and that's more than twenty-five books deep, many of which I have read before. Some authors make that strategy a little easier – Sarah MacLean only has about ten, (one of which I





have waiting for me on my Kindle, right now!) Maya Banks has more than fifty in several seemingly unrelated genres. You could dedicate yourself to a writer, and commit for the sheer joy of their style, characters, and prose, but there is a limitation in exploring the whole industry if you never leave your favorite author's corner.

Would it be better, then, to go by genre? Romance novels cover a lot of ground when it comes to finding exactly what you want. Do hot Scots catch your eye, or do you prefer a man with fangs? Either way, (and even if your interests are far, far out from left field,) you'll find plenty to tickle your *cough* reading fantasy. (Just look at all the political erotica going around. That will keep you busy until the next election.)

As with a single author, however, limiting yourself to a single genre locks you out of the stories of other great writers, without option. I'm a Regency girl through and through, and it's a hard pill to swallow, but branching out will only make my writing better and well-rounded.

The best way to go, when all is said and done, is to read what you like without closing the door on what you don't. There are hundreds of lists of the 'great romance novels of the year' or the month or the decade, but it's up to you to determine what you want to be reading, who and in what era/style/genre.



Shel Silverstein quite succinctly addressed the question in his poem *Melinda Mae*, which supposedly inspired the quote, *How do you eat a whale? One bite at a time.*

Romance books are not a phase of life, to be read and discarded upon completion. They are not a single class in the world college of literature and love. Instead, reading romance, with its massive spectrum of genres, scores of talented artists, and hundreds of devoted presses, is a lifetime goal, a many decade apprenticeship to learn from the masters.

I can't think of better path to education. ♥

NOTE: This article was first published in 2016.

*Writing as Holland Rae and Gemma Snow, Ruby Scalera has published several works of erotic and romantic fiction in both the contemporary and historical genres and enjoys pushing the limits of freedom, feminism, and fun in her stories. She has been an avid writer for many years, and recently moved back to her home state of New Jersey from Boston, after completing her education in journalism and creative writing. In her free time, she loves to travel, and spent several months living in a 14th-century castle in the Netherlands. When not exploring the world, she likes dreaming up stories, eating spicy food, driving fast cars, and talking to strangers.*



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**THE JOYS AND TRAVAILS OF WRITING IN MULTIPLE GENRES  
BY FALGUNI KOTHARI**

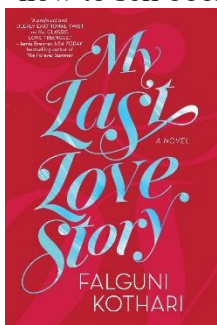

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I became a writer quite by accident. Before it could even sink in that I had written a full (and pretty readable) manuscript that I was holding in my hands, much less acquire enough industry knowledge to inform my decisions about the career trajectory of a writer, I was a published author. My first two books are romances and are traditionally published in India. My third book, the first in a fantasy series, is also traditionally published in India, though it is self-published everywhere else. And my new release, *My Last Love Story*, is a romantic women's fiction novel which was very briefly self-published but was then picked up by Graydon House (Harlequin) to publish across the world. To say my publishing journey has been a tad topsy-turvy is putting it mildly.

Now, you may wonder why I'd genre hop with almost every book, when, as a rule, the industry advocates and encourages authors to stick to one genre where they can build their audience and careers. And only then—perhaps, if they're brilliant—tolerate them branching out into other genres. The simple truth is that it never occurred to me that I was genre hopping. All my stories are about love, so all of them must be love stories or romances, right? Wrong.

Yup, I didn't know any better. I hadn't learned enough about the industry and the marketing and publicity aspects of it, and I had no clue, no business plan. Even when I learned about categories and genres, I was under the impression that because I was an eclectic reader, as a writer I could be the same. I read anything that appeals to me. I love a thriller as much as a romance as much as a contemporary novel or historical fiction. I equally enjoy an epic family saga or an epic fantasy tale, and sometimes—rarely—a memoir. I also love historical and cultural non-fiction. When I began writing, I believed I could write what I wanted, when I wanted. I still do. I write the story first and worry about—or let someone else worry about—the genre later. It's how my stories come to me. I get an idea and I have to write them down. I imagine a character in her setting and I have to write her down. And while the end results have caused some confusion with would-be agents who weren't sure how to sell books that didn't fit neatly into a strict genre, each book has, in the end, managed to find its right path into the world—some with an agent, some without.



Perhaps my writing adventure is still a fairly new and my brain wants to try everything before it can settle down in one genre. Or perhaps I've been right all along about writing love stories, but because of their themes or their settings or their character's arc, they are categorized differently. With *MY LAST LOVE STORY*, I've changed direction again into women's fiction. But no matter the genre, my stories will always have a romantic thread running through them.♥

*Falguni Kothari is the author of unconventional love stories and kick-ass fantasy tales. Her four novels, most recently MY LAST LOVE STORY, are all flavored by her South Asian heritage and expat experiences. An award-winning Indian Classical, Latin and Ballroom dancer, she currently spikes her endorphin levels with Zumba. She resides in New York with her family and pooch. She can be found online at FalguniKothari.com and you can get the latest updates at bit.ly/FKMailingList. Connect with her on Facebook @FalguniKothariAuthor and on Twitter and Instagram @AuthorFalguni*






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**HAVE YOU EVER BEEN READY TO QUIT YOUR JOB,  
OR ANYTHING ELSE CRUCIAL TO YOU?  
BY ALICE ORR**

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Have you ever been discouraged to the max in your professional life, or your personal life, or in general? It happened to me. I was about to throw in the towel. I'd lost that loving feeling toward my work. For years, I would wake up in the morning with an itch to get back to whatever story I was writing. I carried a notebook with me everywhere, even took longer subway routes for more scribbling time between stops. Then, I put my notebook aside and hardly remembered where it was.

I was despondent. One of my very best friends, my devotion to telling stories, was dying right in front of me and I didn't know how to save her. Thank heaven I had enough mind presence left to contact a motivational coach. Maybe an expert mojo locator could find mine. I didn't really believe it would work. I figured she'd assign me some creativity exercises. I'd complete them, because I've always been the kind of student who does the assignment. But, in the end, my desire to write would remain among the missing.

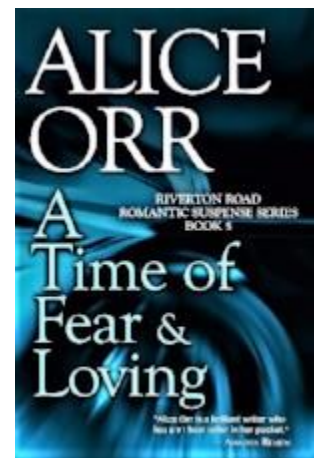
Then she said, "Would you mind telling me about your heroine?" My response was to stare. It had been weeks since I thought about Amanda Miller, the main character of *A TIME OF FEAR AND LOVING*, Book 5 in my Riverton Road Romantic Suspense Series. "Amanda is a widow," I began, because I needed to say something, "but she's tired of being thought of as a widow. She's ready to come back to life." "What kind of life does she want?" Ms. Motivator asked.

I hesitated for a moment before it hit me. I knew the answer to that as well as I know my name. "What she doesn't want matters most to her. She doesn't want to be taken for granted as always dependable any longer. She wants to become someone even she doesn't expect herself to be."

I didn't hesitate again. Detail after detail tumbled out of me, including murders and a possible kidnapping. Amanda, Mike, Willow, Justin and the entire Book 5 gang returned, demanding that their stories be told. Most magically of all, my love of writing returned with them. The key to the locking me was that I'd asked for help, often not an easy thing for me to do.

The next time you want to quit, you could reach out too. You might be surprised what reaches back.♥

*Alice Orr is the author of 16 novels, 3 novellas, a memoir and NO MORE REJECTIONS: 50 SECRETS TO WRITING A MANUSCRIPT THAT SELLS. A former book editor and literary agent, Alice now lives her dream as a full-time writer. She has two grown children and two perfect grandchildren and resides with her husband Jonathan in New York City. Her books, including A TIME OF FEAR & LOVING, are available on Amazon. Visit her at [www.aliceorrbooks.com](http://www.aliceorrbooks.com).*



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**DON'T TAKE IT PERSONALLY****BY URSULA RENÉE**

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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 it to her 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 crafts stories with a diverse cast who must overcome internal and external conflicts to reach a happily-for-now. She prefers the early to mid-twentieth century, when people began to question their own beliefs and challenge society's conventions. You can find her at [www.ursularenee.com](http://www.ursularenee.com).*

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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 a novel or novella, but not yet earned \$1,000 ("Option Two"). Works offered through Predatory Publishing companies shall not qualify.♥

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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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**Deadline: the 15<sup>th</sup> of every month.**

Take advantage of us!♥

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**RWA/NYC MEMBERSHIP & RENEWAL APPLICATION**


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DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ CHECK ONE:  NEW MEMBER  RENEWAL

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**\*NOTE: All RWA/NYC Members must be members of RWA National.**  
 For national membership form, visit [www.rwanational.org](http://www.rwanational.org).

**CHAPTER INVOLVEMENT:** Please volunteer to help in at least ONE (1) chapter event.  
 (check all that apply):  contest  awards reception  newsletter  website  ALL!

**HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT US?**  RWA  Facebook/Twitter  Website  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

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**MEMBERSHIP DUES**

**Chapter dues are due March 3, 2018. Make checks payable to RWA/NYC.**

There will be a \$10 late fee for all renewals after March 3rd; and, \$20 fee on all returned checks. Return completed form with your dues to RWA/NYC, POB 3722 Grand Central Station, New York, NY10163, or you can pay via PayPal at [www.rwanyc.com](http://www.rwanyc.com).

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

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**WRITING CREDITS**
CHECK ONE:  PUBLISHED  UNPUBLISHEDCHECK ONE if you are an RWA National Member of:  PAN  PROIf UNPUBLISHED, tell us at what stage you are:  New or  Pre-Published (have submitted something)

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

PUBLISHER(S): \_\_\_\_\_ PSEUDONYM(S): \_\_\_\_\_

WEBSITE(S): \_\_\_\_\_ BLOG: \_\_\_\_\_

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