

# KEYNOTES



*The newsletter of the Romance Writers of America / New York City Chapter #6 DECEMBER 2017*



**NEXT MEETING**  
Saturday, December 2  
12:00 – 3:00pm

**CHAPTER BRUNCH**  
John Sullivan's  
201 West 35th Street (near 7th Ave)

Fee = \$35, includes tax and tip  
Pay online at [www.rwanyc.com](http://www.rwanyc.com)

**BOOK SWAP!** Remember to bring a new or gently used book for the swap.

## **HIGHLIGHTS**

### **\*Introduction of the 2018 Board of Directors**

- LaQuette: President
- Harper Miller: VP Communications
- Alexis Daria: VP of Programs
- Maria Cox: Treasurer
- JN Welsh: Secretary

### **\*Member of the Year**

### **\*Raffle for a Free Membership**



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## **EARLY BIRD SPECIAL ... \$5 OFF !**



Renew your Chapter Membership by **December 31, 2017** and get **\$5 off**.

**Renew today at [www.rwanyc.com](http://www.rwanyc.com).**

Go to "Members Only" section.

Password is **membersonly**.

There is a renewal membership form at the end of this newsletter. ♥




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### THANK YOU!

To Our Contributing Writers  
 LaQuette, Kay Blake, Maria Ferrer,  
 Jean Joachim, Lisa London, Kate McMurray,  
 Harper Miller, Alice Orr, JN Welsh

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## MEETING INFORMATION

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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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## KEYNOTES DEADLINE

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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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## JANUARY THEME

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### UNWRAPPING SOCIAL MEDIA IN 2018 & Its Relationship with the Modern Writer

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

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## 2018 CHAPTER CALENDAR

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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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President: Kate McMurray  
 Vice President/Events: Stacey Agdern  
 Vice President/Contest: LaQuette  
 Secretary: Jennifer Welsh  
 Treasurer: Maria Cox  
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 PAN Liaison: Mageela Troche  
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 Michael Molloy  
 Website: Ursula Renée

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**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: THIS TOO SHALL PASS**  
**BY KATE MCMURRAY**

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For my last column as president, I had planned to do a kind of “two years in review,” but after mulling it over, I decided I wanted to talk about the future, not the past.

One undeniable truth about the publishing industry is that it has changed radically in the last five years. Some changes are good, opening the market to writers who wouldn't have been able to publish otherwise, giving readers access to stories they might not have seen otherwise, giving writers room to experiment with new genres and new ideas. Some changes are frustrating, like publishers and bookstores closing, changes at Amazon, the popularity of some romance subgenres waxing and waning.

Odds are good that 2018 will bring more change. Odds are also good that we as authors will undergo changes in our careers. We'll have to adjust even more and adapt to the changing market. We'll face adversity and hit setbacks.

We as authors also put pressure on ourselves, be it financial or competitive or anything along those lines. I talk to other writers frequently, and many of my friends and colleagues have expressed similar anxieties. Many of us think we should write more, put out books more frequently to stay competitive in an overcrowded market. We worry about marketing strategies, covers, alienating readers with one too many tweets about the current political climate, building readership, losing sales, and so on. We worry about Amazon scammers, about deadlines, about other authors being more prolific than we are, about the mysteries of the various bestseller lists, about our publishers dropping us, about nobody buying the sub-genre we love, and so many other things.

Stop. Take a deep breath.

I don't have all the answers. I worry about all these things, too. But I do have some faith. Maybe it's Pollyannish of me, but I truly feel that a good mix of talent, perseverance, and elbow grease are the ingredients of success. Many things that happen in the industry that make us gnash our teeth are flash-in-the-pan, really. Sometimes it's hard to see past the latest hullabaloo, but I think there's a difference between long-term career planning and doing what works right now. There's a difference between doing something to make a quick buck and putting together a sustainable writing career.

It means we must be smart businesspeople in addition to good writers.

But here's something else I think is true: good books will rise to the top.

No, really. The books readers talk about, the ones that get recommended by reviewers and trade publications, the ones you put on your keeper shelf, they're *good*. What I love about romance is that there really is an abundance of talent, and great books are being written every day. It's hard to get heard over the din of other authors clamoring for attention, that's for sure, but if you write a good book and are smart about how you market it? There's a whole world of readers out there anxious to get their hands on it.

So, my parting advice is this:

**Push aside all the noise**, all the pressure, all the conventional wisdom and focus on writing the best book you can. Write like no one's watching, like there's no pending contract. Learn your craft, get into the heads of those characters, write the book of your heart.



**Get feedback.** Revise. Make that book even better.

**Find the right path for you**, be it indie or traditional or some mix of both. Don't do what's easy, do what's best for your career. There's no right or wrong path to follow, but think big and think long term.

**Learn the market.** Read in the genre. Read reviews, look at bestseller lists. Pay attention to what's happening in publishing. Subscribe to the Publisher's Lunch daily email or to a trade magazine like *Publisher's Weekly*. Follow industry experts on Twitter. Make friends with other authors and exchange tidbits and advice. Be armed with as much information as you can to help you make informed decisions.

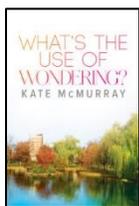
**Don't be afraid to put yourself out there.** The worst thing that will happen is that someone will say, "No." A "no" is not the end of the world, it's a chance to assess, adjust, and try again. And you won't get a "yes!" if you don't try.

**Network.** Meet people. Here in New York City, the heart of the publishing industry, there are many opportunities to get to know industry professionals, from editors and agents to publicists to cover designers and ebook formatters. Even if the people you meet don't help you directly, you can benefit from their knowledge of the industry and their connections.

**Think long term.** Think multi-book series and building a fan base. Think about where you want your career to be in 2020. In 2030. Don't think in terms of *If*. Think you can do it and you will get to where you want, and it's only a matter of strategizing how to get there.

It's a lot of work, yes, but our favorite authors make it look easy.

And finally, remember why you do this: for the love of writing and storytelling. At the end of the day, that's the most important thing. We write because we love the romance genre, because we're compelled to, because we get so much joy and satisfaction from writing a story we're proud of. The market is the market; it will ebb and flow and break and correct itself. But the constant is that we love to write and we're passionate about our books, and I believe that will rule the day.♥



*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).*

**CHAPTER MINUTES: NOVEMBER  
BY SECRETARY JENN WELSH**

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*Attendance: 15 members*

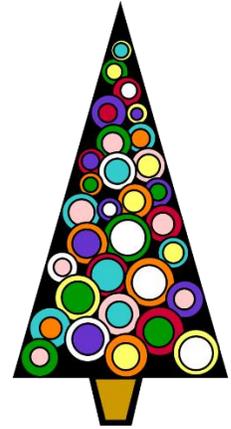
**President Kate McMurray called the General Meeting to order at 12:21pm**  
Meeting minutes approved, motion by Harper Miller, Kate McMurray seconded.

**Treasurer's Report:** Maria Cox reported that we have \$5,657.24 in the bank.

**Secretary's Reports:** 85 active members confirmed.

**Golden Apples:** The ceremony on September 28th at Hudson Station went very well. Stacey has thanked Eric at Hudson station. We were pleased with the attendance and the actual apple awards will be sent out soon.

**Kathryn Hayes "When Sparks Fly" Contest:** First round judging has been completed. The finalists have been chosen and notified. LaQuette and Ursula are discussing putting the information up on the website.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Newsletter and Blog:** Write for Keynotes! December theme is: Reflections. Articles should be approximately 500 words. Articles should be submitted between the 15-20th of the month. Again, let Maria F. know about any book releases or author news so it can be including RWANYC Twitter feed, Book Cover Fridays and Keynotes. There is a recurring column in Keynotes called A Room of One's Own. Send articles to the Keynotes team at: [keynotes@gmail.com](mailto:keynotes@gmail.com)

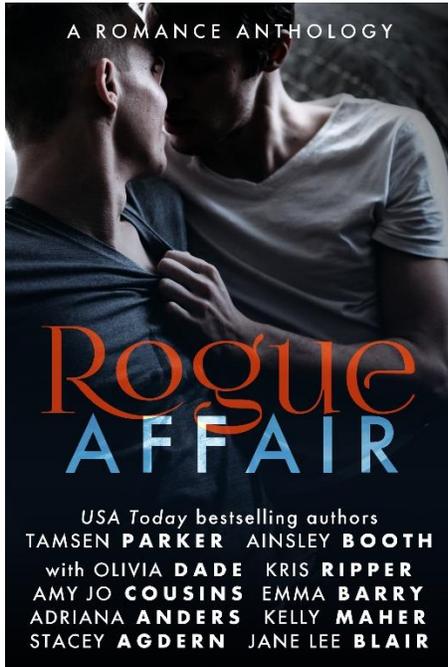
**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Critique group – If you haven't already fill out the Google document sent by Kate. Some ideas the board had was to give members and opportunity to match themselves with an accountability partner. We continue to discuss ways to make the critique group thrive. Thanks to Candace Lucas who volunteered to help organize.
- NaNoWriMo – Shirley has taken over as Word War coordinator. Make sure to get your words in for her to report weekly.
- Early bird dues renewal will begin December 1st through December 31st (\$35)
- The chapter discussed the Ripped Bodice Survey result about diversity. The discussion was lively and informative

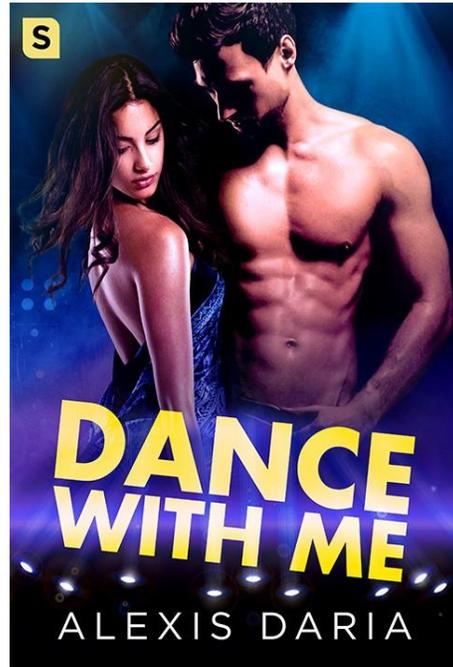
Round Robin begins. **Chapter meeting adjourned at 12:40pm.**

Speaker: Editor Cat Clyne presented Hook and Queries with Agent Leslie Tuttle at the general meeting.♥

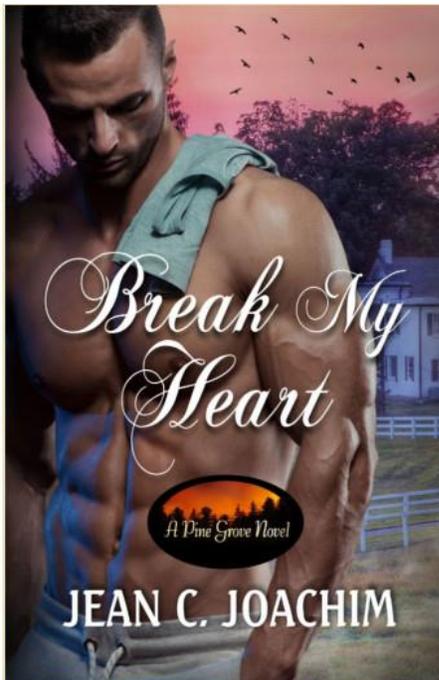
**MEMBERS ON THE SHELF**



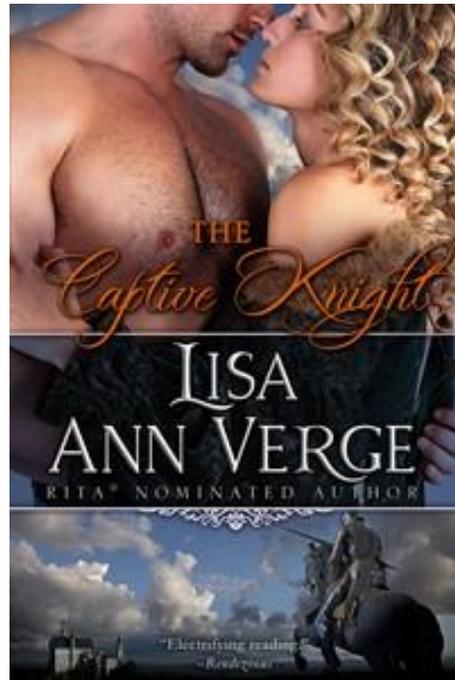
**MR. KLEIN GOES TO ALBANY**  
 by Stacey Agdern  
 ROGUE AFFAIR anthology



**DANCE WITH ME**  
 by Alexis Daria



**BREAK MY HEART**  
 by Jean C. Joachim



**THE CAPTIVE KNIGHT**  
 by Lisa Ann Verge

*Continued on page 7.*

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**KATHRYN HAYES “WHEN SPARKS FLY” CONTEST FINALISTS  
BY VICE PRESIDENT LAQUETTE**


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Vice President LaQuette is pleased to announce the 2017 Finalists.♥

**Contemporary:**

- Heart of Dixie by Ruthie Henrick
- My One and Only by Terri Osburn
- Calling It by Jen Doyle
- Her Hopes & Dreams by Terri Osburn
- Interior Design & Other Emotions 2 by Kate Forest
- Mistletoe & Macaroons by Cadia Cox


**Erotic:**

- Tongue & Groove by Shae Connor
- Fueled by Lust: Sotarios by Celeste Prater
- Only For The Night by Ella Sheridan

**Paranormal/Sci-Fi/Fantasy:**

- Mind Waves by Amanda Uhl
- Lure of Obsession by Lisa Kessler
- Hunt The Dawn by Abbie Roads

**Romantic Suspense:**

- Love Hard, Love Deep by Lotchie Burton
- Dangerous Protector by Katie Reus
- Dangerous Medicine by Stephanie Ryan

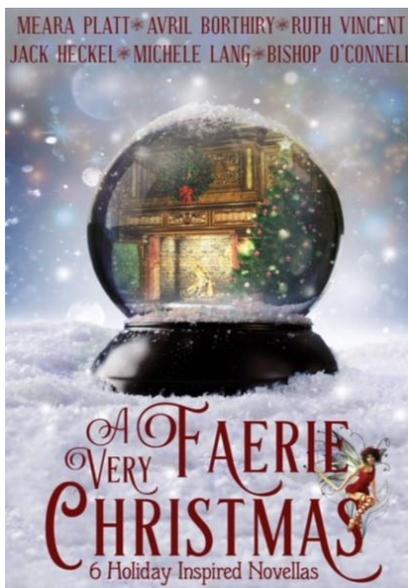
**Historical:**

- Wild Lavender by Nicole Elizabeth Kelleher
- The Norseman's Deception by Gianna Simone
- One Breath Away by Michal Scott

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**MEMBERS ON THE SHELF.... CONTINUED**


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**“ABOVE THY DEEP AND DREAMLESS SLEEP”  
by Ruth Vincent  
A VERY FAERIE CHRISTMAS anthology**

## CHOCOLATE TRUFFLES TO MAKE YOUR HOLI-TIDE BRIGHT BY ALICE ORR



I fell in love with these Chocolate Truffles years ago. So I immediately modified the recipe and made it my own. Now I pass it on so you can make it yours.

Warning: You'll have to lick your fingers lots while making these. In warm weather, refrigerate until serving. In the winter at holiday time, when I most often make this recipe, you need to keep in mind that they won't stay around long. So, if you plan to take them to a special event, hide their festive serving platter until it's time to leave

Or, here's a delicious thought. Share them with your partner. Then you can lick his/her fingers too. Meanwhile, feel free to deck the halls with chocolate. What a way to celebrate.

### Chocolate Truffles to Die For

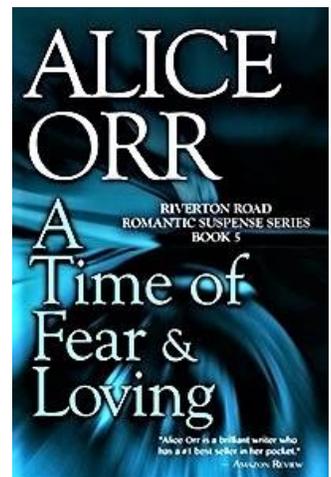
**Ingredients.** For up to 72 truffles depending on how big you make them.  
4 cups semisweet chocolate chips – That's two 12-ounce packages.  
1 14-ounce can sweetened condensed milk  
1 Tbsp. vanilla extract – Rum or orange-flavored extracts work well also.  
Cocoa – This is the traditional coating. Feel free to employ alternatives.

### Instructions.

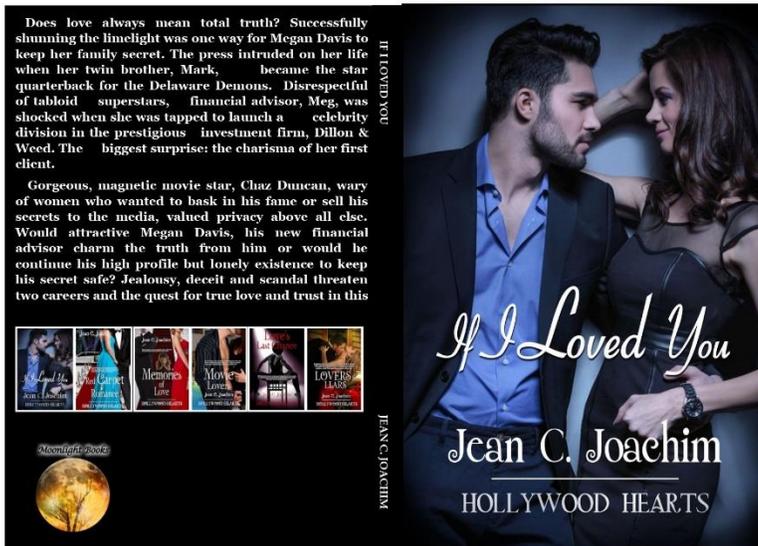
Melt chips and milk in nonstick pan over low heat stirring pretty much constantly till smooth.  
Stir in vanilla or other flavor extract of your choice.  
Chill till easy to handle. An hour or two should do the trick.  
Shape into one-inch balls or larger if you prefer. I use a melon baller for this part.  
Roll balls in cocoa or whatever other tasty treat stuff you like.  
Store in air tight container.  
You can present these in small muffin cups - or not. They'll disappear fast either way.

If you get started now you can have these ready by sundown. Try not to eat too many during prep. You do have other folks to think of after all. They're jubilant about chocolate too.♥

*Alice Orr's new series novel is A TIME OF FEAR & LOVING – Riverton Road Romantic Suspense Book 5.*  
Visit her at [www.aliceorrbooks.com](http://www.aliceorrbooks.com) and at:  
<http://facebook.com/aliceorrwriter/>  
<http://twitter.com/AliceOrrBooks/>  
<http://goodreads.com/aliceorr/>  
<http://pinterest.com/aliceorrwriter/AC>



## PASSIVE MARKETING: SELF-PUBBING TIPS AND TRICKS BY JEAN JOACHIM

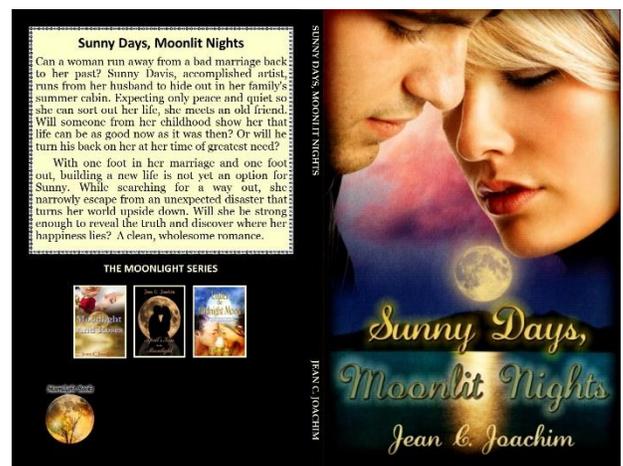
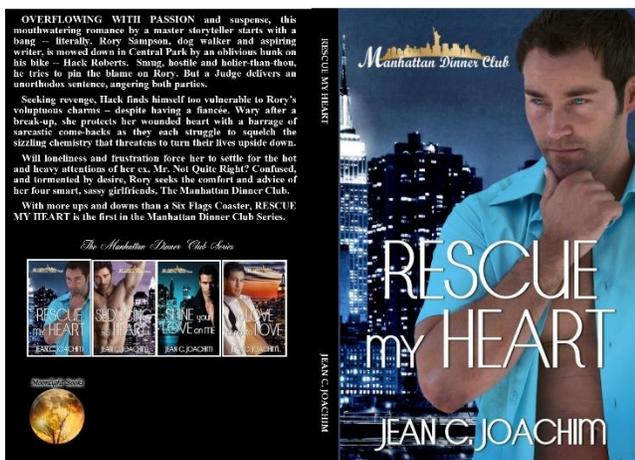


There are all kinds of marketing techniques discussed all over these days, but not this one. I call it “passive” marketing because you’re not out there screaming “buy my book” or waving it in people’s faces. One of my favorite passive marketing methods, if you’re writing series, involves paperback books.

On the back cover of my paperbacks, I put pictures of the covers for the other books in the series. They are small, especially if there are many, but they advertise the other books in your series. This is especially helpful at conferences, signings and other events, where readers are handling your books.

When a reader picks up your book, the first question may be, “How many books in the series?” or “What’s the next book in the series?” or “Are all the books in the series out now?”

With the pictures of the covers on the back cover of each book, the reader can simply flip the book over to get the answers to those questions in a jiffy. The pictures of the covers passively advertise your work for the life of the paperback. ♥

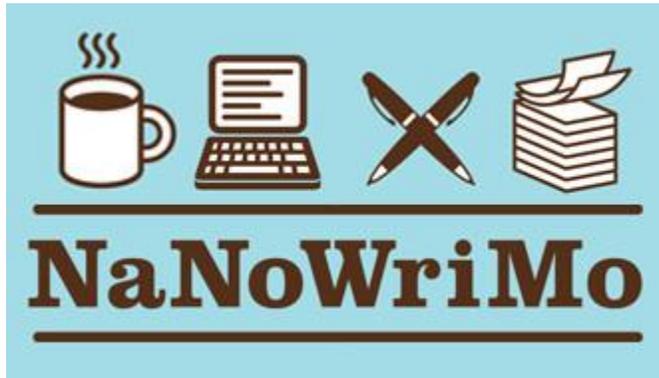


Jean Joachim is an award-winning, multi-published author of contemporary and military romances, of romantic suspense and sweet romances. Visit her at [www.jeanjoachimbooks.com](http://www.jeanjoachimbooks.com).

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**YOUR NANO SURVIVAL KIT**  
**BY LISA LONDON**

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It's November which means, you're faced with the same decisions that face all writers each November: To Nano or Not To Nano?

If you're me, you have a big case FOMO when it comes to anything authorly which is why I've been to over twenty-six writing conferences and taken over 100+ workshops. The thought of writers doing something fun where I'm not there is too much for me to handle.

You're an author. You write novels. So stop wasting time on the decision and tell yourself: "Yes, you are going to participate in NaNoWriMo."

What's the worst that could happen...you'll have either an entire novel or a huge chunk of one written. Not sure that either one of those are bad options.

Let's get prepared so we can have the best NaNo month ever by putting together our **NaNoWriMo Survival Kit**.

- Sparkling H2O
- Notebooks, pens and divider tabs
- Wordless Spotify Playlists
- Headphones
- Tea
- Healthy Snacks & Treats
- Takeout Menus
- Essential oils
- Scented Candles
- Cozy Sweater or Hoodie
- Writing Blanket
- An Egg Timer
- An online fitness membership to the Daily Burn or Cathe.com

And the **3 most essential parts**

1. **A Clean Workspace** is key to being productive. Less is more when it comes to your desk. And I'm not just saying that because I'm a minimalist. There have been studies that prove a clear desk is not a creative mind but a cluttered and unproductive mind mired in overwhelm. Why do you think writers escape to hotel rooms to get writing done? For the clean, uncluttered workspace and environment. So what to do with all that stuff sitting on top of your desk? Dump it all in a box for December or better yet, just throw it away. I promise you won't miss it.

2. **An Outline aka Your Book Bible** is your Roadmap for the next 30 days on what to write, who to write about and the order in which to put it all together. Not only does this remove the need to make notes to yourself each day on what to write the next day but it's a massive timesaver in terms of jogging your memory of your story line, your character's GMC, your setting, the time of day and everything else you could possibly need to write your novel. You simply pick it up, look where you last left off and start writing. Get my Ultimate Book Outline Template when you join PREPtober - the FREE 31-day Outlining & Plotting course at <https://rebrand.ly/preptober> - it's the Bonus file for Day 31.
3. And most important >> **Join a Support Group!** No one else is going to understand what you're going through more than another writer. All of the time you spent explaining not only what NaNo was to your friends and family but trying to spell it out for them, you could've written an entire chapter by now! In addition to adding buddies on the official NaNo site, I'm hosting a 30-day daily support group over at <https://rebrand.ly/nanobootcamp> where you'll have a note in your inbox every day to help you to stay on track, daily video lessons on productivity and craft to make sure you have the tools you need to finally...finish that novel!♥



*Lisa London is a romance author, graphic designer & digital marketing strategist. You can find her giving out advice to writers at <https://learnindiemarketing.com> where you can also download the FREE Book Launch Checklist.*

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## FREE PUBLICITY!

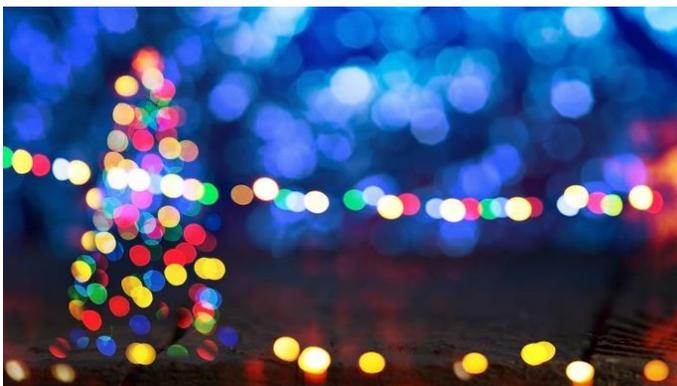
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Have a new book out? Entered and won a contest? Have an interesting topic, research, tips you want to share? An event, book, conference you'd like to review?

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

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!♥

**MONTHLY THEME: REFLECTIONS OF THE YEAR**

*This month our members take a look back at 2017 and their hopes for 2018.*



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**GOODBYE 2017, HELLO 2018****BY: KAY BLAKE**

2017 has been quite an interesting year. I have done so much, and there is still so much that I want to learn and do.

I mentioned before how I am an author who suffers from a chronic illness called fibromyalgia. There are so many days that I want to leave the writing behind. The pain sometimes gets so bad, but I have made so many accomplishments this year.

I joined RWA and RWA NYC in January 2017. I was welcomed with open arms by supportive people. Authors and writers at all stages of the game, all simply wanting to share their love of romance by painting their words onto their pages. I have been afforded so many opportunities like the RWA LIRW annual conference which put me in the path of an agent I am interested in. I was one of the attending RWANYC authors at the Brooklyn Book Festival, a festival that I've been to many times. I was able to have my first ever romance reading from one of my novellas. And those things were possible simply because I'm a member of RWA, interacting with genuine and helpful people.

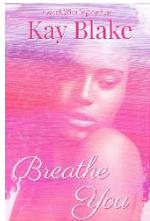
From a writing aspect this was more of an experimentation year for me. I wrote stories simply to see if I can do it. I wrote them and learned what I needed to work on, and what is more my niche. I also was able to step outside of my comfort zone. Learning my strengths and the things I need to get better at with my writing as I continue down the author path. I also won a Summer Indie Book Award, getting first place in diversity for my novella CATCH ME IF I FALL. It was an honor and a shock. One that also confirmed that I was on the right path. I hope I can continue to do the same.

On a personal note, I am a mom of three cubs as I call my children, I was able to still get my bachelor's degree in developmental psychology. My oldest and middle cub both had graduations right after mine, and I was in awe how I was still able to make sure that they were on top of their game when it came to their school work, and still manage to graduate magna cum laude.

I say these things, not to toot my own horn, but more to look back on what I've been able to accomplish over the years. I was so stressed about what I had to do, that I had to sit back and really look back on the things I did get done. And while there were many bumps on the road, they still got done.

I have plans for 2018. I am still working out what and when, but I do have plans. I do have goals that I want to achieve that would further my career as an author. I want to try new things with my voice and break molds. I want to be confident in every move I make next, and I am ready.

Nevertheless, she persisted. My motto that I used for 2017, and I tend to use it for 2018 with a slight amendment. Which one? I'm not quite sure yet. But, I am ready and excited for what's to come next for me.♥



*Kay writes sassy, sexy and sweet contemporary and interracial romance. She is from arguably the greatest city in the world. (New York). She is a sarcastic sweetheart who prefers snuggling at home with a good book. She is a mom to three cubs. Kay indulges in strawberry cheesecake, horror movies, Harry Potter, The Walking Dead, wrestling and of course a happily ever after.*

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## HOW I TURNED MY 2017 FROM BLAH TO FANTASTIC BY HARPER MILLER



Hi folks, Harper here. As I write this post, I find it hard to believe we're already looking back at the good, the bad, and the ugly of everything that's transpired within the last twelve months. I couldn't wait for 2016 to end. With multiple celebrity deaths (Prince and George Michael in particular), I was thoroughly looking forward to wiping my slate clean, moving on to brighter pastures, and ushering in 2017, but then there was the election. After November 8, 2016, a good portion of the population, myself included, had to take some time to adjust to this new "normal."

A full year later and, almost daily, I still feel like the world is on fire. I had to do something to keep me from losing my mind. Aside from donating to charitable causes like Planned Parenthood and the American Civil Liberties Union, I chose to turn 2017 into a year of intention. I guess you could say my *ah-ha* moment came when I realized my writing was suffering. I was internalizing all of the negativity that came with our new normal, and because of it, I couldn't muster up the desire to create HEAs.

Being selfish is usually considered a bad thing, but for me at least, 2017 became a year where self-care was of the utmost importance. To deal with the madness, I had to put myself first and do so without an ounce of guilt. So, here are three things I did in 2017 to keep my positivity high:



### *I Tweeted for the Culture*

Before the election of 2016, Twitter was a social media platform I barely used. I would retweet articles I found interesting and fell in line with my brand. I'd tweet inspirational quotes a few mornings out of the week. But after November, I needed to find individuals who felt as I did. People who knew black and brown folks were not the enemy and that immigrants were not the enemy. Despite what the current administration in the White House would have us believe, people of color and immigrants are deserving of equality and respect.

On Twitter, I found my brethren! I've engaged in discussions about inclusiveness. I shared threads to help others understand why feminism needs to be intersectional and why white supremacy and Nazis are detrimental to the message of equality no matter how they're framed and why Black Lives Matter isn't a terrorist organization. I immersed myself in threads and followed a lot more social justice activists who were asking some tough questions, and it was cathartic.

Many authors are afraid of alienating readers with their personal views, but the more I thought about what was at stake, the more empowered I became.

Author me is not that different from everyday me. Now, I tweet like it's my job. Losing book sales is no longer a factor when my integrity is at stake. I sleep better knowing I'm using my social media platforms to engage in open and honest dialogue.

### *I Focused on Personal Transformation*

I did it. I finally gave up dating. I had a short-lived column for *Keynotes* where I wrote about my shenanigans as a single black female writer in NYC. I wasn't exactly leading the *Sex and the City* life, and I'm certainly no Carrie Bradshaw, but I've come to the realization that dating in NYC is a waste of my time. Technically dating in a major city *should* be easier because of the abundance of people, but not so! The energy I spent trying to make sense of why individuals were emotionally stunted, I could channel into other things like living my best life and my writing.

The summer months of 2017 were spent on becoming a better, healthier me. Before beginning my writing career, I was in the gym at least six days a week. That changed mainly because I couldn't fit in time to work out and write and check off the bazillion other things on my to-do-list. I retrained my brain and reprioritized my goals. Having a plan of action has led to a significant increase in my productivity. I'm writing more, I'm working out more, and I'm rewriting my narrative while riding a wave of goodness!



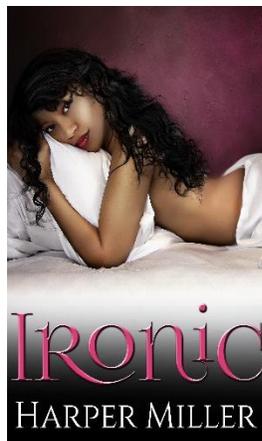
### *I Let Go of Toxicity*

Saying goodbye can be hard, especially when you've established communication with someone, be it online or offline. If someone doesn't bring you a little bit of joy, you shouldn't feel any guilt about needing to cut ties. I let go of people who were not looking to better themselves or encouraging others in their respective journeys. This year, I've tried to elevate my platform and amplify my voice, and I want to promote and uplift others in their author journeys, as well.

I've learned a hard lesson in 2017: not everyone's heart matches mine. While I have good intentions in wanting the best for everyone and hoping we all succeed in this author gig, not everyone feels the same. I'm not interested in fueling dissent. We have enough on our plates trying to survive in this new world. Why not contribute in the best ways possible?

This year has been a year filled with ups and downs, but toward the latter half of the year, I've made some excellent strides. Here's hoping 2018 builds on that momentum.

I wish you all joy and prosperity for the remainder of 2017 and may 2018 be filled with opportunities that push you closer to your goals.♥



*Harper Miller is a thirty-something native New Yorker. She's traveled the world and lived in a variety of places but always finds her way back to the Big Apple. A lackluster love life leaves time to explore new interests; for Harper it is writing. **THE SWEETEST TABOO: AN UNCONVENTIONAL ROMANCE** is her debut novel. In her mind, the perfect Alpha male possesses intellect, humor, and a kinky streak that rivals the size of California. When she isn't writing, Harper utilizes her graduate degree in the field of medical research. She enjoys fitness-related activities, drinking copious amounts of wine, and going on bad dates. Harper may have sworn off online dating, but she loves writing about couples who connect via this medium. If you're interested in erotic short stories, give the Kinky Connect Chronicles a whirl. All stories in the series are standalones. Stay up to date with Harper by visiting her website: [www.authorharpermiller.com](http://www.authorharpermiller.com)*



**UNFINISHED BUSINESS STILL UNFINISHED****BY MARIA FERRER**

I can't believe 2017 has come and gone, and my unfinished business is still unfinished. Guilt is knocking, doubts are swirling and frustration is stretching out on the sofa.

But ideas are still filling up my little black book, slowly but surely.

There are no New Year's Resolutions that will fix what I have. So I won't be making any promises I can't keep, but I will continue to write when I can and fill up as many little black book as I can. The keywords for 2018 are persistence and time management.

Here are other words to help stir the creative juices in the New Year, and may your "unfinished business" get done. Happy New Year and Happy Writing.♥

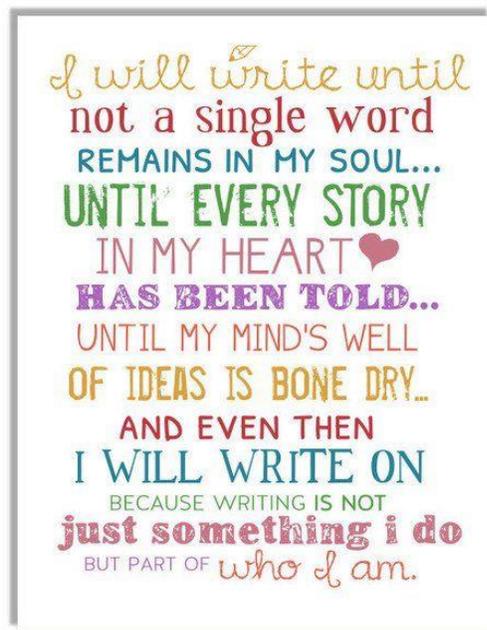
*Maria Ferrer is still working on several unfinished stories, which she is determined to get done... sooner rather than later. Keep Calm and Keep Writing.*

Just do it. –**Alice Orr**

You don't find time to write. You make time. It's (the) job. –**Nora Roberts**

Be ruthless about protecting writing days, i.e., do not cave in to endless requests to have "essential" and "long overdue" meetings on those days. –**J.K. Rowling**

If there's a book you want to read, but it hasn't been written yet, then you must write it. –**Toni Morrison**





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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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**FROM OUR HOME TO YOURS.....HAPPY HOLIDAYS !**

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**RWA/NYC MEMBERSHIP & RENEWAL APPLICATION**


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

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ NATIONAL RWA MEMBER # (required) \_\_\_\_\_

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CITY/ STATE/ ZIP CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

HOME TEL: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_ ASSOCIATE MEMBER -- \$ 35/year (Dues: Jun-Jul= \$25; Aug-Sep= \$20; Oct-Dec= \$15.)  
 (ONLY for related members who do not meet the qualifications for General Membership)

OPTIONAL: \_\_\_\_\_ Check here if you are making an additional contribution to the chapter in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_. You can also pay via PAYPAL at [www.rwanyc.com](http://www.rwanyc.com).

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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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