

KEYNOTES



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

AUGUST 2018

NEXT MEETING: SATURDAY, AUGUST 4

LOCATION: TRS, 40 EXCHANGE PLACE, 3RD FLOOR, 12 – 3 PM

TOPIC: MASTERING THE ART OF GREAT CONFLICT

SPEAKER: SARAH MACLEAN



We know that the wallflower makes the perfect heroine for the rake; that the vampire makes the perfect hero for the vampire hunter; that the thief makes the perfect match for the detective. These matches work because of their innate initial conflict, but how do we keep conflict alive for an entire book? Join New York Times best-selling author Sarah MacLean for a workshop on how to build and maintain great conflict as you write your romance.

BIO: *New York Times*, *Washington Post* & *USA Today* bestseller Sarah MacLean is the author of historical romance novels that have been translated into more than twenty languages, and winner of back-to-back RITA Awards for best historical romance from the Romance Writers of America. A columnist for *The Washington Post*, Sarah is a leading advocate for the romance genre, speaking widely on its place at the nexus of gender and cultural studies. Her work in support of romance and the women who read it earned her a place on Jezebel.com's Sheroes list of 2014 and led Entertainment Weekly to call her "gracefully furious." A graduate of Smith College & Harvard University, Sarah now lives in New York City with her husband and daughter. ♥

MEMBER NEWS



Alexis Daria wins RITA for Best First Book, TAKE THE LEAD. ♥



*A synonym is a word you use
when you can't spell the other
one.*

BALTASAR GRACIÁN

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CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Barbara Bent, Maria Cox, Alexis Daria,33333
Maria Ferrer, LaQuette, JN Welsh

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.



SEPTEMBER THEME

BACK TO SCHOOL

Writing about Young Adult and New Adults

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

DEADLINE: 15th of the month

2018 CHAPTER CALENDAR

Aug 4 Sep 8 Oct 6 Nov 3 Dec 1

RWA/NYC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

KEYNOTES DEADLINE

Send articles to 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

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:
CONSENT AND AGENCY: THE SEXIEST PART OF ROMANCE
BY LAQUETTE**

In a genre that's written mostly for and by women, it's always surprised me how infrequent heroines are depicted as having sexual agency. Essentially, sex often happens because the hero initiates and drives it. The heroine only responds to that desire. In my opinion, there is nothing sexier than a woman who knows what she wants in life and in bed.

I have never subscribed to the idea that women don't need or desire sex as much as men do. Because of this belief, my heroines always embrace their sexuality, no matter what level of sexual experience they possess. My ladies don't just say yes in response to the heroes' desires. They are making their own desires known and participating in a collaborative effort to have their needs met in conjunction with the heroes'. They are engaging in sex because they want it. They are initiating sex because they are comfortable with their sexuality and have no fear in expressing their needs.

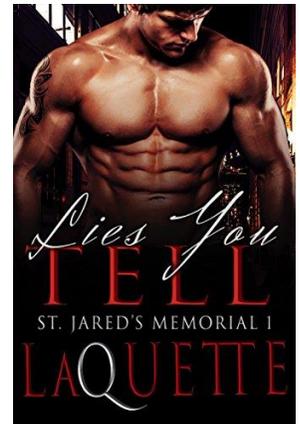
Today's woman does not need an excuse to want, seek, or engage in sex. We need to stop writing her as if she does. Women are commanding everything from boardrooms to military units. Why can't we have sex, ask for sex, and ask for it the way we want it without first putting a qualifier before that decision to engage? We are autonomous beings, we have the right to embrace our sexuality.

Another aspect of the heroine's autonomy is consent. A woman who is allowed to say no without concerning herself with explaining her choice, and having that choice be accepted and respected by the hero is powerful. It keys into the idea that a woman is capable and has the right to decide what happens to her body. So, when a heroine says yes, it's because she's making the explicit choice to share her body with someone. She is exerting her power and authority. And just in case you weren't aware, power is sexy.

That's how I keep my books sexy. Displaying that sort of authority and confidence makes for a more dynamic heroine. It also makes the interaction between the hero and heroine more interesting too. If you add in a hero who is aroused by that kind of healthy, consensual, outlook on sex, you've just given me everything I want as a reader. Let your ladies choose their particular brand of sexy. Trust me, that's how you keep things hot.

Keep it sexy! 💋

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 and LaQuette@NovelsbyLaQuette.com.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



Angela Lam
Rayna Vause
Lory Wendy
Susan Davies ♥

**CHAPTER MINUTES: JULY 7
BY SECRETARY JENNIFER WELSH**



Meeting began at 12:18 p.m. 10 members attended.
Minutes: Maria seconded,

No Treasurer report.

Contest info: Harper needs judges. Email VP email. vicepresident@rwanyc.com
Help by retweeting on Twitter.

Golden Apples: Ceremony will be on a Thursday night toward the end of September. We're hoping to lock down a venue this month, after the National Conference.

Mini Con Updates: Will be held at Fordham University in the Bronx on November 3rd. Maria will give LaQuette a check for rental, and tickets will be up for sale soon.

PAN and PRO liaisons are not here.

Brooklyn Book Festival: Festival will be Sunday September 16th 10 to 6 p.m. More information is on the website. \$40 / 2 hour block at the chapter's table. Michael is also looking for volunteers to help at the table throughout the day. Email Michael at: michaeljmolloy@aol.com or michaeljmolloywriter@gmail.com.

Social Media report: Andrea is retweeting from the chapter's Twitter account.

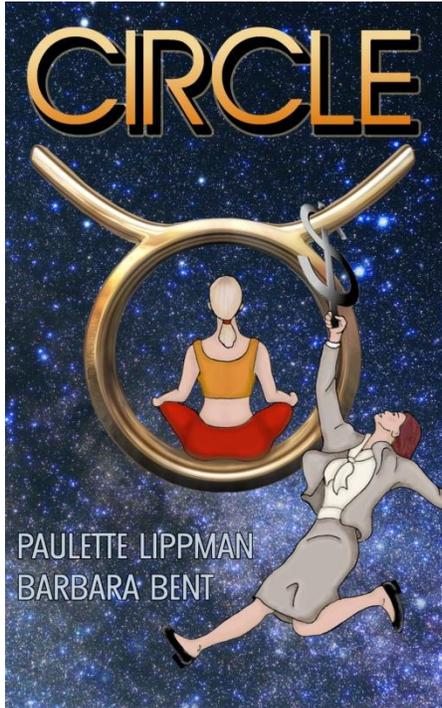
Keynotes: Falguni is always looking for articles. Send to her by the 15th of the month.
keynoteseditor@gmail.com

Discussion of the recent New York Times article on Romance.

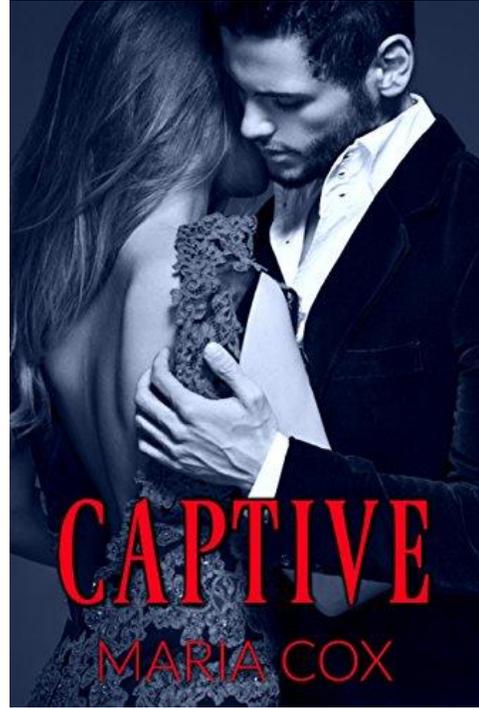
Meeting ended at 12:25 p.m.

Speaker: Kate McMurray. ♥

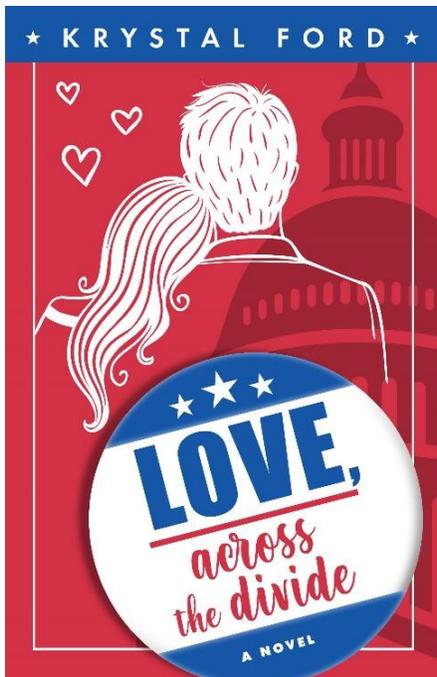
MEMBERS ON THE SHELF



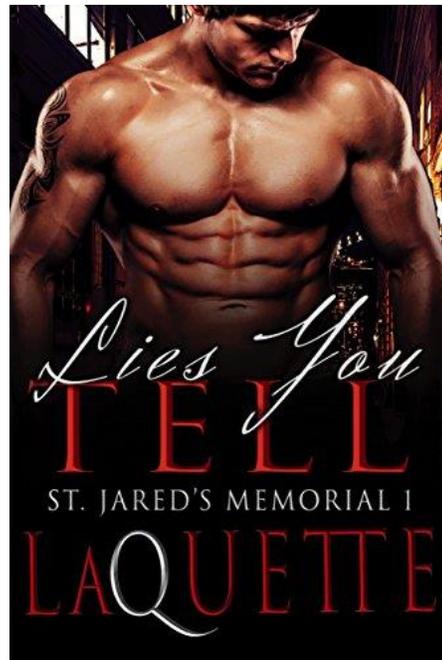
CIRCLE
by Barbara Bent



CAPTIVE
by Maria Cox



LOVE, ACROSS THE DIVIDE
by Kristal Ford



LIES YOU TELL
by LaQuette

WHEN SPARKS FLY CONTEST

ATTENTION MEMBERS!

The **Kathryn Hayes “When Sparks Fly” Contest** is now open to published and indie-published authors. Visit the RWA/NYC website for guidelines and registration form.
Digital entries only.
Deadline: September 1.
www.rwanyc.com.



JUDGES NEEDED. Please contact Vice President Harper Miller at vicepresident@rwanyc.com.♥

**GOLDEN APPLE HONOREES 2018
BY VICE PRESIDENT ALEXIS DARIA**

RWA/NYC is proud to announce the 2018 Golden Apple Honorees:

Lifetime Achievement: **Rochelle Alers**
Author of the Year: **Alexis Daria**
Agent of the Year: **Sarah Younger**
Editor of the Year: **Elle Keck**
Publisher of the Year: **Dreamspinner Press**
Bookstore of the Year: **The Ripped Bodice ♥**



dreamspinner.com

EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE: NOVEMBER 3

SAVE THE DATE! Saturday, November 3rd.

RWA/NYC is having a mini-conference.

Keynote speakers: Piper Huguley and Farrah Rochon.

Details will follow shortly. Think about volunteering. ♥



RWA CONFERENCE PHOTO ALBUM



Chapter Members had a blast at RWA's Denver Conference. There was education, networking, book signing and an amazing awards night, where our very own **Alexis Daria** won the RITA for her book, **TAKE THE LEAD**. Everyone celebrated especially Jessica Russell, who wore a hand-made skirt with *all* the RITA Finalists book covers on it. See bottom of page 8. (Read about the skirt by visiting here: <https://jessrussellromance.com/2018/07/10/curtains-and-covers-and-skirts-oh-my/>)

We thank everyone who shared their photos: Alexis Daria, Kate McMurray, Harper Miller, Ursula Renée, Mia Sosa, Kari Cole, Melissa Stone, Rayna Vause & Susan Lee. ♥

#RWA18





#writerslife

#lookingsexy





#RWANYCrocks
#wearefamily

#RITAwinner



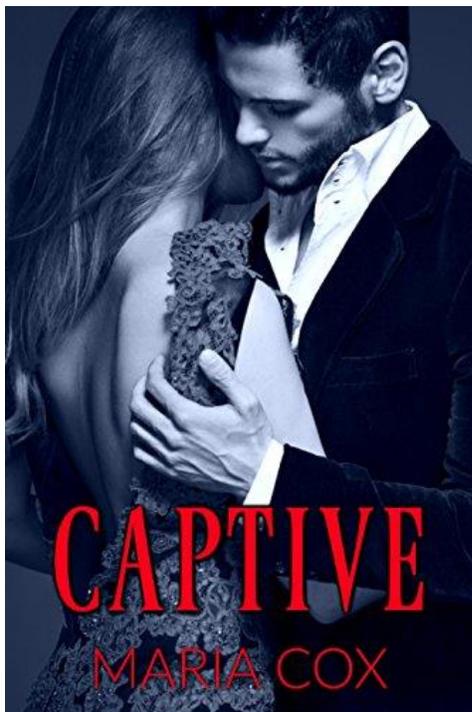


#thefutureisfemale



MONTHLY THEME: WRITING HOT HOT HOT!

WELCOME TO MY WRITING DEN: SEX
BY MARIA COX



Sex is a healthy and natural activity.

Sex is something the majority of people around the world enjoy. And if sex is done in a safe, loving environment it can be life-altering and very fulfilling.

As romance authors a lot of us write about sex, that's pretty awesome if you ask me.

I imagine when most romance writers began reading romance we were twelve, thirteen, fourteen. I think it's no coincidence that our interest in romance happened right around the time of puberty, the time when boys and girls experience sexual awareness.

When I read my first romance novel I was eleven years old and I distinctly remember how sexy the book was; I was enthralled. That first book stirred something in me and I was forever changed.

Let me be clear, though, it isn't just the sexual act that captivates the romance reader, no readers of the genre want their souls to soar, their hearts to skip a beat, they want to swoon. Romance readers want to read about the whole experience, from lust to love. And I as a romance writer owe it to my



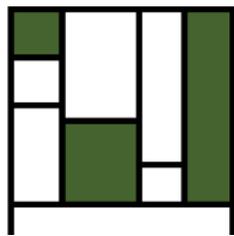
audience to give them exactly what they want. So, I write about characters that are real and flawed and yes, sometimes sex happens in unusual settings, a bathroom, an elevator, an office desk, a closet even. Why? Because stuff like that happens in real life!

Saucy romance novels exist because some of us (a lot of us, I'd argue) want to satisfy a curiosity about the sex lives of other people. Think about it, isn't that really what we're doing when we read a romance?

Happy reading friends! ♥

Maria Cox is the 2nd Place winner of the 2017 MANA (MarketingNewAuthors.com) Blog Short Story Series Contest. Maria is also a PRO member of Romance Writers of America and the Treasurer of RWA/NYC. Maria served two terms as President of the Phoenix Writers Club. Maria 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 and/or follow her on Twitter.

2018 BROOKLYN BOOK FESTIVAL



BROOKLYN
BOOK FESTIVAL

When: Sunday, September 16th, 10 am - 6 pm, Rain or Shine.

Where: The area adjacent to the Kings County Courthouse and Brooklyn Borough Hall at Montague and Court Streets. Serviced by a majority of subway lines.

Booth: To be determined in a random selection by the Book Festival committee.

Cost: \$40.00 per person for a two-hour period on a first-come, first-select basis.
Limit two authors for each two-hour period with a limit of only one slot for the event.

If you are interested, email Michael Molloy at michaeljmolloy@aol.com. ♥

GETTING IT ON AFTER 50: KEEPING IT LIGHT IN THE SUMMER

BY BARBARA BENT



My co-author Paulette Lippman and I have written a book about two very different women over 50 who meet as client and broker in an arrangement engineered by the client's ex-husband.

In their journey to meet men among other things, their sexual encounters are at once steamy and funny. For example, Kate, the divorced client, had been a virgin bride.

Now that she's divorced, she is seeking the happiness her marriage once had. A designer of golf clothes, she meets a golf pro who interests her. After several dates, she decides to go to his place. She tells Frannie about it here.

"Remember I started to tell you about the golf pro I had the bad sex with? Before we went to bed, he had to do his exercise routine. Flat abs were very important to him, so he lifted weights, did chin ups, pushups, and who knows what else he lifted and pushed."

Kate paused, and Frannie sensed she was having a hard time with this story.

"When he was finished," Kate said, "he said he had to take a shower, but there wouldn't be enough hot water for me to shower as well."

"He sounds like a jerk." Frannie changed the cross of her legs.

"I wanted to freshen up, of course. In desperation, I found some Palmolive dishwashing soap in the kitchen. You can imagine what I was washing. It burned like hell. And I didn't realize I'd dripped some onto my underpants. Then we went to bed. He did what he needed to feel good, then he turned over and went to sleep. I was irritated and felt as if I'd been fucked, not made love to."

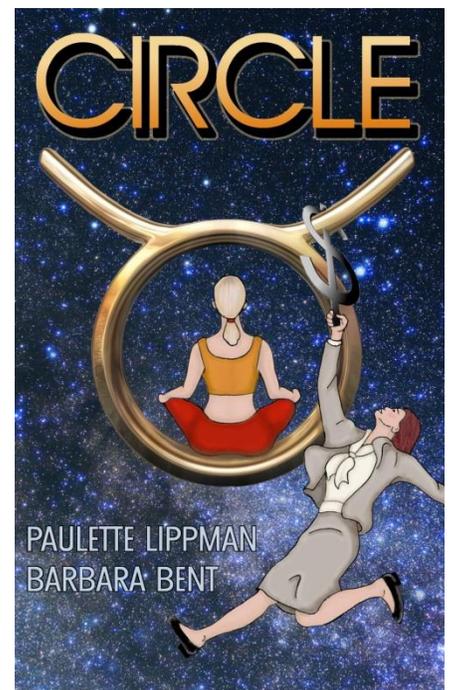
"That's awful."

"At least his boxer, Snaps, jumped on the bed and licked my tears away. He was a lot more sensitive than his owner."

"I'm so sorry."

"When I put my underwear back on, the Palmolive area burned me again. It lasted for a couple days, but the humiliation is still there." ♥

Barbara Bent is a Charter Member of RWA/NYC. She has been published in hardcover and in numerous publications, including Star magazine and True Confessions. Her new book, CIRCLE, with co-author Paulette Lippman, is available on Amazon.



SEX SELLS!**BY MARIA FERRER**

Sex Sells! Which is great because that's our bread and butter.

And, whether you shut the bedroom door or invite the reader to join you in bed, it's all about sex. Sex is not just the coupling, it's a dance, it's romance. It's that first look, that seductive smile, that extra swing in the hips, that abs flex, that first kiss, that hot embrace, that sexual spark, that heated touch, that joining of two bodies (maybe three!).

It's up to the individual author how much heat she / he wants to add to the story. I like my stories hot and on the erotic side because I want to be there for every moment of the romance. I was a reader before I was a writer. I was – and am – still every heroine, so I want to be immersed in the whole story – every conflict, every victory, every kiss.

How to add heat to your story in five easy steps:

1. Open the bedroom door. Let the reader in and on the bed.
2. Got spark? Whether your protagonists are partners or antagonists, readers need to see and feel the spark between them to make the romance real.
3. Girl gets boy, girl loses boy, girl gets his best friend. No, girl gets boy. Maybe, girl gets both. Writers must make the heroine and hero work for their HEA. The more conflict, the more action, the better the makeup sex.
4. Sensual and satisfying. Open the bedroom door; it bears repeating. The reader wants to share in that climax.
5. Sex Sells. Keep the reader wanting more and they'll buy your next book.

If you want to keep the door closed or only partially opened, that's fine too. Sweet Romances sell just as well. Write what you are comfortable with, at the level of hotness you prefer. After all, you are the heroine / hero of your own story. Make it a good one, and remember that love is love. ♥

Maria Ferrer and her alter ego, Del Carmen, enjoy writing erotica that is sensual and satisfying. Her stories have appeared in various magazines and publications including Cleis Press, Cosmopolitan for Latinas, Penthouse, Ravenous Romance, Riverdale Avenue Books and Star.



FREE PUBLICITY!

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF US! 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. Articles will also be published on the Chapter Blog for DOUBLE the promotion!

Deadline: the 15th of every month. ♥

**ABOUT PAN
(PUBLISHED AUTHOR NETWORK)**



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.♥

About PRO



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.♥

HAPPY SUMMER!