

KEYNOTES



The newsletter of the Romance Writers of America / New York City Chapter #6 OCTOBER 2019

NEXT MEETING: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5

LOCATION: TRS, 40 EXCHANGE PLACE, 3RD FLOOR, 12-4PM

TOPIC: EFFECTIVE PLOTTING

**SPEAKERS: RHONDA MERWARTH
 FREELANCE EDITOR**



The Balance Between Love & Laughs:

Wanna learn how to make readers fall in love with your characters *and* have a good laugh or two (and hopefully more)? Learn hands-on tips and tricks from multi-published author and award-winning editor Rhonda Merwarth on various types of comedy, how to ramp up comedic situations, as well as how to balance comedy and romance.

Rhonda Merwarth is multi-published in teen romance, New Adult, and adult romance with Simon Pulse, Kensington, Berkley InterMix, and Hallmark. Her teen romance PROMPOSAL was an ALA Quick Pick for Reluctant Younger Readers. She also is a two-time RITA award-winning editor. Rhonda lives in Northeast Ohio with her family and her weird cat, Whiskey. Visit rhondawords.com for information on her novels, or rhondawords.com for information on her editing services.

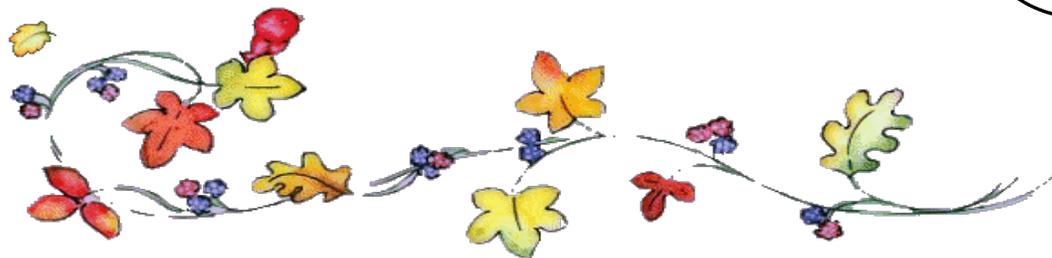


TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page

3—	President's Message
4—	New Members, Chapter Minutes
5—	Critique Group Info
6—	Member News, Members on the Shelf
7—	Golden Apple Awards Photo Album
8—	Brooklyn Book Festival Photo Album
9—	Monthly Theme
12—	Why General Media Needs Romance
13—	Millennials 101
16—	Free Publicity, PRO, PAN, Social Links

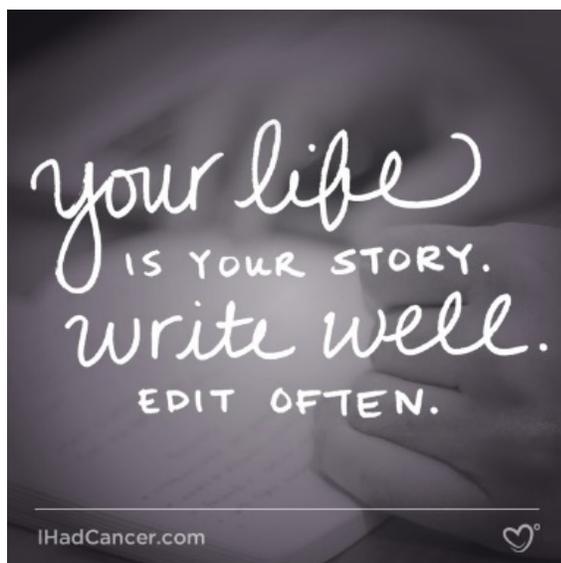
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

LaQuette, Kay Blake, Katie Dunn, Maria Ferrer, Rebecca Hefner, Victoria Luce, Andrea Obacz.

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.

**NOVEMBER THEME****WRITING FOR ANTHOLOGIES
OR WRITING NOVELLAS:
ARE THEY WORTH IT?**

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

DEADLINE: 15th of the month

RWA/NYC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: LaQuette
 Vice President/Programs: Adriana Herrera
 Vice President/Communications: Harper Miller
 Secretary: Kay Blake
 Treasurer: Alexis Daria
 Past President: Kate McMurray

LIAISONS & COMMITTEES

Keynotes Editor: Falguni Kothari
 Board Liaisons: JN Welsh and Maria Cox
 Blog/Social Media: Maria Ferrer
 Critique Group: Kate & Candance
 Publicity: Maria Cox, Jean Joachim,
 Michael Molloy
 Website: Ursula Renée
 PAN Liaison: Stacey Agdern
 PRO Liaison: Anna Bierhaus

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. Thanks.

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:
BY LAQUETTE**



It's October, and that mean one thing to writers: There's only a few weeks left to prep for NaNoWriMo. National Novel Writing Month begins on November First. So, if you're planning to participate, or are like me and have no choice but to take part, now is the time to get ready.

First, decide what project you're working on. Maybe you're starting something new or continuing an existing project. It doesn't matter which, just pick a project and commit to working on it during November.

Second, get your pre-writing done now. It doesn't matter whether you outline, storyboard, or a create a beat sheet. Whatever method you use to create and develop your story needs to be employed now. Remember, NaNoWriMo is about writing the book, not plotting it.

Third, figure out your writing schedule. The purpose of this event is to be intentional with your time. You have thirty days to write fifty thousand words. There's not enough time to fit writing in sporadically. If you're going to do NaNo, setting aside intentional writing time will help you work toward completion.

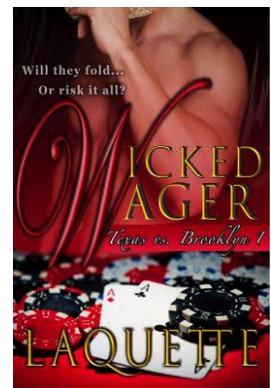
Fourth, write. Don't think about it, don't edit, don't revise, just write. The purpose of this event isn't to create a perfect story that's ready for publication. It's all about getting the story on the page. After it's done, you can go back in and make it pretty.

Fifth, have fun with your writing. This is supposed to be fun and productive. If producing under these conditions is adding pressure instead of motivation, don't take part. Stressing yourself out will only impede your writing, not augment it.

That's it. NaNoWriMo success is as simple as those five steps. Get your plan in place and have fun.

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 LCS Literary Agency. Visit her at: LaQuette.com and LaQuette@LaQuette.com.♥



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS !



Rebecca Hefner
Julia Pastore

**CHAPTER MINUTES: SEPTEMBER 7
BY SECRETARY KAY BLAKE**



Attendance: 24 members

LaQuette, President called the meeting to order at 12:08 p.m.

Harper Miller (VP, Communications) approved August's minutes.

Treasurer's Report (Alexis not present): There is \$3,385.33 in PayPal. There is also \$4,178 in the bank account. Leaves the total amount of money to \$7,563.33.

Secretary Report (Kay Blake): We are currently at 99 members.

Adriana Herrera, (VP, Programs): Golden Apples- Tuesday, September 17, 2019. Blooms Tavern 208 E 58th St, New York, 10022. From 6 pm to 9pm. \$35 a person. 2 Hour open bar and appetizers. 25 professionals confirmed. A mix of agents, editors and journalists. Tickets are available on the website.

Harper Miller, (VP, Programs): Kathryn Hayes When Sparks Fly Contest – Contest ended on September 1st. Entries were sent to judges on Thursday, September 5, 2019. First round ends on October 11th. 2nd round judges have been notified and will get stories on the 11th of October. There were 47 entries in 2019. A drop from the 87 entries in 2018.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Michael Molloy (Publicity) - Brooklyn Book Festival: There's a 4 pm - 6 pm time slot left. The cost is just \$40.00 where you can sell you books, even back list material, and above all promote yourself. It takes place on Sunday, September 22, 2019 from 10 am to 6 pm. One more volunteer needed as well. Michael may or may not step down from running the helm for BKBF.

Andrea Obacz (Social Media) – Any publishing news, events, and other book/writing related info you want shared that doesn't include a buy link please send to Andrea or tag the RWA NYC twitter page. Open to suggestions. Want to be followed by the official account, tag the RWA NYC page.



Kate Dunn (Critique Group) Next meeting is Monday, September 16, 2019 at Smilers on 59th Street. Send 20 double spaced pages at least a week or two before the meeting.

Ursula Shand (Website): If any new members want their website added to the email address please contact ursulashand@gmail.com

Also suggested to send social media to Kay Blake, secretary at info@rwanyc.com

Keynotes - Contact Falguni and Maria Ferrer with articles. Articles due by the 15th of the month. Deadline can be pushed back to the 20th.

Board Elections: Board elections are coming up. The candidates are:

Adriana Herrera for President

Victoria Luce for VP of Programs

Sharae Allen for VP of Communications

Lory Wendy for Treasurer

Kay Blake will stay on as secretary.

The Voting form will be sent on Sunday September 8, 2019.

CIMRWA has an integrated program for unpublished authors and authors who sold less than 10,000 copies per title. Check out details on the CIMRWA website.

Round Robin began. Meeting adjourned at 12:24 p.m.

Speakers: Kerri **Buckley** and Linda Camacho- The Editor/Agent Relationship♥

CRITIQUE GROUP INFORMATION BY KATE DUNN

The next RWA-NYC Chapter critique group will take place on Monday, October 21, from 6-8pm (come at 5:30 for eating/ chatting; critiques start promptly at 6pm). We will be meeting at Cafe Isadora (www.cafeisadoras.com) 16 East 52nd between Fifth and Madison, on the second floor. There are plenty of good food options there.



This group is open to all chapter members. We welcome participants willing to read submissions and offer feedback, even if you don't have anything to submit that month. Thinking critically about other people's work is a great way to learn how to improve your own.

If you would like to participate, let us know and we will send you an invitation to the August Google Group. Submissions of approximately 20 pages are due by August 5. If you have any questions, please email either one of us and we will be happy to chat with you. Dates for the rest of the year appear below. Happy writing! ♥

For more info, write to Kate (kdunn707nyc@gmail.com) and Candace (cklucas1949@gmail.com).

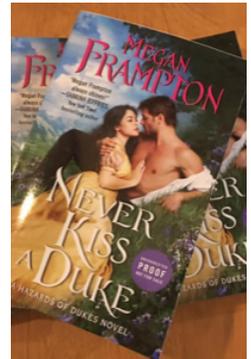
Future dates: Nov 18; Dec 16. YEAR 2020: Jan 13; Feb 10; Mar 16; Apr 20; May 18; Jun 22.

MEMBER NEWS

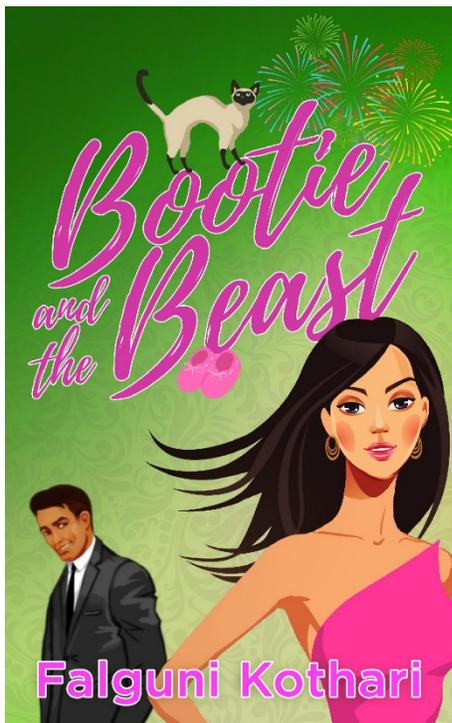
Megan Frampton's last story in her Duke's Daughters Series is coming this month -- THE EARL'S CHRISTMAS PEARL. And, in January 2020, her new book, NEVER KISS A DUKE, releases!!

Falguni Kothari is rereleasing her book, *Bootie and the Beast*, with a new sexy sassy cover. See below.

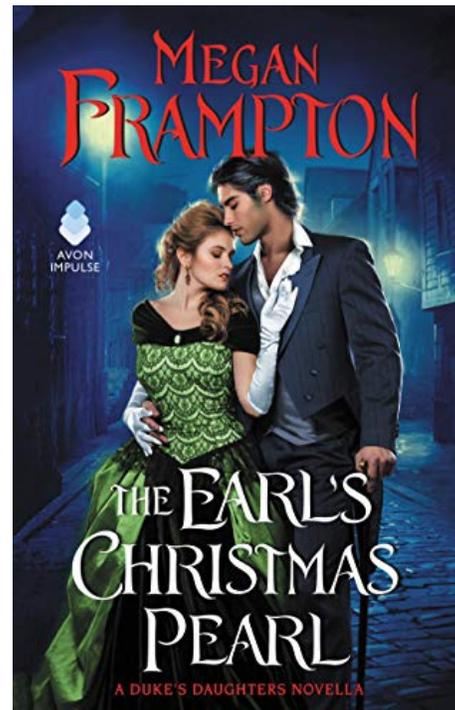
Kelly Newton w/a Newt Kincaid started a blog just before RWA19. She posts about twice a month but is working her way up to posting weekly. Check it out at NewtKincaid.blogspot.com.♥



MEMBER ON THE SHELF



BOOTIE AND THE BEAST
By Falguni Kothari
Rerelease



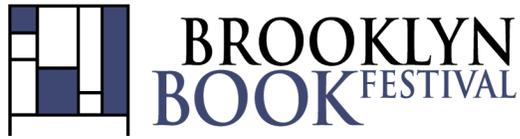
THE EARL'S CHRISTMAS PEARL
by Megan Frampton

GOLDEN APPLE AWARDS RECEPTION PHOTO ALBUM

Many Thanks to **Vice President Adrianna Herrera** and her volunteers for their hard work. RWA/NYC's Golden Apple Awards Receptions on Tuesday, September 17, at Bloom's Tavern was well attended, and a huge success!



BROOKLYN BOOK FESTIVAL PHOTO ALBUM



Many Thanks to **Michael Molloy** and his merry volunteers for another great year at the Brooklyn Book Festival on Sunday, September 22.



MONTHLY THEME

Members weigh in on

WRITING BEYOND THE NATURAL REALM



WRITING BEYOND THE NATURAL REALM: ADDING SCI-FI, FANTASY, PARANORMAL, AND MAGICAL ELEMENTS TO YOUR ROMANCE
BY REBECCA HEFNER

One night, over a decade ago, I woke up beside my now long-ago ex fiancé. “The Vampyres need to be dependent on the Slayers’ blood!” I whispered excitedly as he mumbled for me to go back to sleep or go downstairs and write it, because I was keeping him awake.

He was used to me springing from sleep like this because I had a story in my head with rich, vibrant characters, and they wouldn’t shut the hell up. I was not a writer. At this point in my life, I was beginning what would become a thriving twelve-year corporate medical device sales career. Oh, and I was also addicted to romance novels. Had been for as long as I could remember.

I shuffled down the stairs and booted up my computer, now used to writing in the dead of night. I’d finally uncovered what would make my world tick: the two main species had to be dependent on each other. Slayers would rely on the protection of the hulking, more aggressive Vampyres, and Vampyres would get their sustenance from Slayer blood. The goddess Etherya would watch over her perfect immortal creations for eternity as they lived in peace and harmony.

Until the Awakening.



With angry thrusts of a poison blade, Slayer King Valktor murdered Vampyre King Markdor and Queen Calla. The realm was thrown into perpetual imbalance and unending war. For a thousand years they fought, mired in combat and death. Vampyres, needing the Slayers' life-giving blood, raided their compounds, abducting men to drain their veins. In a twisted act of mercy, they never abducted women or children. And so it went, for centuries upon centuries...

Eventually, a new enemy emerged. The Deamon Dark Lord Crimeous, intent on murdering both species in order to cement his claim as sovereign leader of Etherya's Earth. The End of Hatred begins when Slayer Princess Miranda and Vampyre King Sathan realize they must form a tentative truce in order to unite their armies to combat Crimeous.

Can sworn enemies who have battled for a thousand years learn to work together to help their subjects? Moreover, can they both fight their unwanted and forbidden attraction as they strive to secure peace?

As a Buffy lover, I was always intrigued by how she was drawn to vampires even though her sole purpose was to slay them. This is, perhaps, a new twist on that age-old saga. As the series progresses, there are other characters that possess extraordinary powers. Darkrip and Evie can dematerialize and read images in others' minds. It's a fun twist, as I always thought it would be fascinating if we one could read another's thoughts. How disconcerting would that be for both the psychic and the subject?

On Etherya's Earth, the immortal kingdom exists adjacent to, but hidden from, the human realm. This allows the immortals to observe the oblivious humans, extrapolate what they wish from their world, but maintain their more sedentary and rural lifestyle. Yes, there are both modern weapons and swords. Because swords are badass, and the beauty of writing your own world is that you can find a way to fit in pretty much anything you can imagine. Miranda rocks out to human heavy metal. Arderin is obsessed with Instagram. It's a fun way to bring relatable human components into the world without losing the separateness and history of Etherya's species.

In the end, it's a love story. A winding path that Miranda and Sathan must navigate to release antiquated notions of whom they should love. They've been told for centuries that the species should remain separate. Will they have the courage to chart a different course?

My hope as a fantasy writer is that the reader will escape for a few hours into a vivid new world and connect with the characters, even though they aren't technically "human". For, no matter how whimsical the setting, it's always the characters who keep us smiling, laughing and crying...and who keep us coming back for more.♥

Rebecca Hefner grew up in Western NC and currently lives on the Hudson River of NYC. Before deciding to (finally) publish the stories in her head, she built a successful twelve-year career as a medical device sales rep with several companies including Intuitive Surgical and Medtronic. An avid reader, romance novels have always been her first love. When she's not traveling solo, belting karaoke or cheering on the Tar Heels, you can find her at www.RebeccaHefner.com.



VAMPYRES, WEREWOLVES, ANGELS, TIME TRAVELERS, OH MY! BY MARIA C. FERRER

I love paranormal romance. I don't write it, but I love reading it. These outer-worldly/ supernatural heroes are all the rage because they are different. They are *not* the boy next door, the local sheriff, the dominating CEO, the rugged football player. These guys can fly, can shape shift, can cast spells, can seduce us with a smile, a look, a touch. And, we want them to!

There's Diana Gabaldon's time travelers Claire and Jamie. Johanna Lindsey's alien space warrior Tedra De Arr boldly going where no woman has gone before. (She discovers whole planet full of hunky Fabio-aliens in tight pants!) Nalini Singh's archangel Raphael falls in love with a mortal! While her shape shifters dominate San Francisco – leopards and wolves. Anne Rice's vampires are hot on the page and on screen. J.R. Ward's vampires live in upstate New York. Shelly Laurenston's Magnus pack is full of alpha lions with honey badger friends. G.A. Aiken's dragons rule the skies; while Sherrilyn Kenyon's Dark Hunters search for their soulmates. Stephanie Meyers's Twilight Vampires ran amok in Washington State. (Go Team Edward!). May Sage gives us godly scions! And, Nora Roberts gives us futuristic police drama.

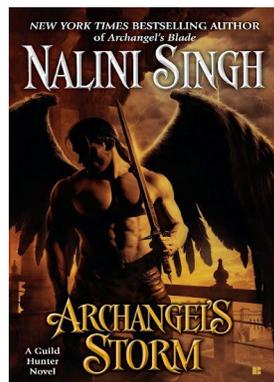
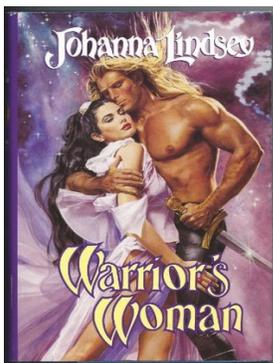
The list goes on and on and on. I'm sure you have your favorites.

Paranormal romances blend the ordinary and the extraordinary; the normal and the fantastic. They are everything and anything from fantasy to science fiction to futuristic to apocalyptic. We're talking vampyres, werewolves, ghosts, aliens, gods, angels, demons, the Four Horseman of the Apocalypse, etc, etc, etc.

Now, while our paranormal heroes are different, they are also the same as our normal, mortal, 20th century heroes where it counts -- they too want to find their true love, they too seek justice, they too are flawed and redeemable, whether it's in the skies, at the bottom of the sea, or on an alien planet.

Kudos to paranormal authors creating new worlds, new cultures, new species. Thank you, and please keep writing!♥

Maria C. Ferrer writes contemporary romances with strong ordinary Latinx characters, but who knows her characters might be bitten by a shape shifter or have a sudden urge to explore the Milky Way. She can only hope.



WHY GENERAL MEDIA NEEDS ROMANCE**BY ANDREA OBAEZ**



As a consumer of media across all genres, if it has a good plot, I'm there. If the characters are relatable, or if the actors are simply having a good time, I'm more than happy to continue watching even as the plot has become more of a friendly suggestion.

However, my biggest pet peeve is consuming a piece of media that has unbelievable relationships and character motivations. I'm not going to call anyone out specifically, but I'm sure you recognize these: Books that feature couples who clearly don't belong together. TV shows with couples that break up and get back together as a substitute for a plot. Movies in which the romantic plot is practically non-existent, or worse, the leads don't seem to even *like* each other, and yet, somehow, the guy gets the girl in the end. It's jarring and it takes you out of the story, leaving you to wonder, "Why?"

The truth is, most media has some sort of romantic subplot, and yet, the romance is treated as an obligatory facet instead of an organic development. Again, "Why?" when Romance as a genre is doing so much? Romance is:

Picking Up Where YA is Leaving Off

As YA readers are aging out of the genre, they are still looking for fiction with the same relationships, engagement, and inclusivity. Romance writers like Alexis Daria, Courtney Milan, Alyssa Cole and Megan Cabot have all reported gaining readers through YA readership, and publishers are taking notice.

Striving to Be More Inclusive

One of the ongoing conversations in Romance is that everyone deserves a HEA. We have to retrain both writers and readers to rethink their ideal romantic lead, and make room for people who may not look like, or have the same background as them. When done correctly, inclusivity can teach us more about ourselves and the world around us, but it can also allow readers from all backgrounds to see themselves as deserving of love.

Focused on Relationships

Romance as a genre is all about negotiating relationships, both romantic and platonic. In today's sociopolitical environment, there aren't enough examples of healthy relationships in which the characters negotiate boundaries, expectations, and clear communication. It is why I say general media needs romance. Because general media needs more examples of how to negotiate healthy relationships.



For the past few weeks, I have been working on a short story tentatively titled *Thank you, Aphrodite*, about a woman whose love life experiences some godly interference through a dating app, for the Of



Gods and Globes second volume, due later on this year. Edited by Lancelot Schaubert, the premise for this anthology is simple: your characters must be affected by a god and globe in some sort of way.

Being a romance writer, my story ends with the promise of a HEA. My goal was never to add sci-fi or fantasy elements to a romance. Instead, my goal is to bring the language of romance (HEA, Friends to Lovers, Second Chance, etc) to mainstream fiction. It's not enough to demand that bookstores make room for a romance shelf. That is important, but I also believe there is room for us to change the face, tone, and expectations of general fiction. When you see characters from varied backgrounds and in fantastical situations achieve a HEA, it makes your own HEA easier to picture. And who doesn't want that?♥

Andrea Obaez can be found at our monthly meetings, on twitter, @andreaobaez and on her website thenoirdiaries.com where she is transitioning her sociological non-fiction outlook to compelling romantic fiction.

MILLENNIALS 101

BY VICTORIA LUCE



Millennials. We are killing the napkin industry, Applebees, golf, homeownership, diamonds and so much more. We are a generation that has strong personalities and stronger ideas of what we can and can't live without. And a large portion of romance books have their heroines in that age range. It makes sense, considering a lot of people want that elusive "Happily Ever After" in their twenties.

As someone who is twenty-six, I love seeing main characters in the same age range as me. Seeing yourself in a character is awesome! But, because I'm the same age as so many characters it becomes easy to see when an author is very far removed from my age group. While emotions are universal, not all experiences are. There are some things that take me out of a story immediately because it becomes so obvious the author is out of touch with the millennial experience. So this is a little teach on some things to keep in mind when you are writing your millennial.

Disclaimer: These are my personal experiences, which means they aren't universal. For every 'rule' there are a thousand exceptions. This is just to help you understand the millennial you're writing. For background, I'm twenty-six, grew up in Connecticut, have a Bachelors from a school in Maine and live in Brooklyn. I'm white and grew up in a middle-class neighborhood in Connecticut that was predominantly white. So, take what I'm saying with a grain of salt. This is for research, not to inform you how your characters should act or feel.

1. Millennials Don't Talk on the Phone!

This is number one because it's one of my biggest pet peeves. If a character picks up the phone and calls anyone under the age of fifty, there probably should be a reason for it. Like, a drastic reason. If a



friend calls me I assume someone has died or they are in desperate need of help. There are dozens of articles relating to millennials and phone usage. The “Mute Generation” is a term that came up when I looked it up myself.

I’m not saying your character won’t ever use the phone to talk to their crush. But if the conversation can happen in a text, it probably would. If they prefer talking on the phone, you may need to have that scene or conversation in the book itself. That’s how weird it is to me. You’d need a *reason*, on the page, to want to talk on the phone.

2. We Text. A Lot.

I love texting. I love being able to talk to my friends throughout the day, whenever I have a minute. It doesn’t need to be about anything. We just complain or chat, or go about our daily lives. I will message friends on Facebook Messenger, Twitter DMs, and even Instagram DMs. My phone is always abuzz with activity. Now, that’s more of a personal choice when it comes to Social Media. But even my friend who lives in rural Maine, and has a Tracfone, uses Facebook to message her

friends because it’s free. Think about how your character communicates. It’s probably via texting. You don’t need to be fluent in emoji but maybe also do a quick Google search to figure out the basics. Or at the least, know that the eggplant emoji stands for a penis.

3. Social Media

It’s a constant presence in a millennial’s life. Even if they eschew all platforms, it’s still there. My friends who don’t use Facebook *have* used it before and then made a conscious decision to delete it. Does your character use Facebook? Maybe they have a Pinterest? Or do they hate all forms of social media? Again, that’s fine but that doesn’t make it go away.

4. The Internet and Porn

Porn. It’s out there. You can search for whatever you want and it’s at your fingertips in seconds. If you’re a millennial you’ve had access to the internet for most of your life at this point. Sure, I remember dial-up internet and my mom yelling at me to get off so she could call my aunt but literally years later we had iPhones. That brings me to the magic of porn at your fingertips. In this world of constant free information, a naive character rings false. I was fourteen when I started reading romance, and then found a writing forum for young women. It then quickly dissolved into a not so PG role-playing group. Because teenagers and sex go hand in hand. Then came Archive of Our Own and the magic of fandoms. You can find *anything* online these days. If you want to read about Captain America having sex with Batman, you can! Rule 34: if it exists there’s porn of it.

When I had my first real boyfriend, I googled, “Does having sex for the first time have to hurt?” And the answer is no! Millennials know how to research any topic, sex included.

So, even if they are a virgin, they’ve probably seen porn or read something dirty. Information is free and plentiful, why would your character stay in the dark?

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. ♥

**WANTED: MEMBERS' SOCIAL LINKS
BY CHAPTER KAY BLAKE**

For new members, and members who have been with RWA NYC, I am sending a call for social media links. If you have any website links, Twitter links, Instagram links, or Facebook links that wasn't given or you just want to update them, please send the links to me at info@rwanyc.com. Thank you. ♥

**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.♥