

Liberty States Fiction Writers

New York ~ New Jersey ~ Pennsylvania



Volume 1 Issue 8

Let Freedom Ring!

September 2009

Anne Walradt, Newsletter Editor

Whitney McKnight, Layout-come-lately Editor

If anyone would like to volunteer to assist with the newsletter, please contact Anne Walradt:

awalradt@aol.com

If you cannot read this newsletter, please try these alternatives:

LINK TO WEB VERSION:

[Liberty States Fiction Writers Newsletter](#)

(requires login to Members Only area of Liberty States Fiction Writers Website)

LINK TO PDF VERSION in Files Section:

[LSFW Announcements](#)

(requires login to Liberty Announcements Yahoogroups)

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President's Column:

Gail Freeman, President

So much exciting news to share! Registration is now open for the mini conference in March, and we must be doing something right. The number of hits on the website is soaring and members who have signed up to attend our first ever one day event are rising right along with it. If you have time, head on over to the site and check out the great line up. And remember, we're not done yet. I understand Rayna Vause and her crew are still working to fill in a few more spots. Not that I want to wish my life away, but I have the urge to see March get here. Now. . .

[Read more . . .](#)

Next Month's Meeting:

October Meeting: The next meeting of the Liberty States Fiction Writers is on October 10th at the Edison Public Library on Plainfield Avenue.

The October workshop will be Dr. Michael Rushnak who will be talking on Medical Facts, Fiction and Writing Thrillers and the safety issues around prescription drugs, the underlying theme of his current medical mystery thriller.

About Dr. Rushnak: Dr. Rushnak graduated Rutgers Medical School in 1974 and is Board Certified in both Internal Medicine and Gastroenterology. He founded a private practice in 1979 and practiced in the New Brunswick, NJ area until the early 90's when he entered the public health arena. Earning a Masters of Public Health degree from Rutgers, he was appointed the managing physician of health care planning at the NJ State Department of Health. After leaving government, Dr Rushnak has served in senior leadership positions at Horizon BCBSNJ, the pharmacy benefit company Caremark, and the biotech company, Medimmune.

Dr. Rushnak retired last summer to dedicate his full attention toward the writing of medical mystery thriller novels that embody relevant messages about the "dark side" of healthcare and toward speaking about solutions to our healthcare challenges. His first novel *TERMINAL NEGLECT* sold out its first printing.

Roundtable Sessions

This month's Roundtable sessions will be on writing pitches and critique. For the critique sessions, please bring 10 copies of 5 pages from the work you would like to discuss. For the pitch session, please have a pitch ready to try out so that you can practice for our November editor and agent guests. If you are a published author and would like to assist with the roundtable sessions in the future, please contact Lois Winston, our Program Chair.

Networking and Snacks

After the Roundtable Sessions, members may network and either brown bag lunch or share snacks with fellow members.

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Articles in this Issue:

Writing for Profit and Credibility

by N.L. Quatrano

[Read more . . .](#)

From Strippers to a Suspense Proposal

by Caridad Pineiro

[Read more . . .](#)

Basic HTML

by Rayna Vause

[Read more . . .](#)

The Tweet on Twitter

by Kathy Kulig

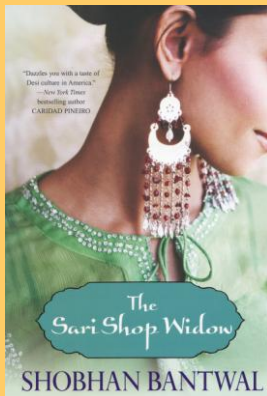
[Read more. . .](#)

Author Spotlight:

October's Author Spotlight is on Shobhan Bantwal.

Shobhan Bantwal calls her writing "Bollywood in a Book," romantic, colorful, action-packed tales, rich with elements of Indian culture. *THE SARI SHOP WIDOW* is her third book. By day Shobhan works for the government. Evenings and weekends are when she flies off to Authorland. Shobhan's articles and short

stories have appeared in a variety of publications including *The Writer* magazine, *Romantic Times*, *India Abroad*, *Little India*, *U.S. 1*, *India Currents*, and *New Woman*. Her short stories have won honors and awards in fiction contests sponsored by *Writer's Digest*, *New York Stories* and *New Woman* magazines. To read her short stories, articles, favorite recipes, and more, go to her website: www.shobhanbantwal.com.



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Meeting Review:

September's featured topic:
"Marketing and Publicizing Your Book"
by Judy Spagnola and Kiersten Krumm

In this workshop, Judy offered tips on how authors can market their books, both on their own and with the help of a publicist. Kiersten spoke about the importance of back cover copy to boost sales.

About Judy Spagnola—Book Trends: Judy's career in the book industry began as a bookseller for an independent bookstore. She soon became a store manager, an area manager, and finally the national buyer for Literature, Poetry, and Romance at Waldenbooks, where she was responsible for purchasing for over 1400 stores. When Waldenbooks moved to Ann Arbor, Judy formed her PR company, Book Trends, on the advice of author Andrea Kane, who became Judy's first client. Judy uses her many contacts among booksellers, buyers, distributors, merchandisers, and reviewers, along with her in-depth knowledge of the book industry, to help promote and sell her clients' books. On her website, www.book-trends.com, you'll find a list of authors she has worked with.

About Kiersten Krumm: Kiersten has been writing back cover copy for ten years. She currently writes for Hachette, both for the Forever line and for Grand Central. She has also written for Avon/HarperCollins, St. Martin's Press, and Pocket Books. She's been writing exclusively for Hachette since 2003 and has written for Julia Harper, Sherilyn Bodine, Jane Porter, Megan Crane, and Sandra Hill, among others.

Guest speaker podcast info:

The podcast for the September meeting will be available shortly. You will receive an e-mail on the announcements loop as soon as it is available.

To listen to any of the monthly meeting podcats, login to LSFW's Motionbox account with the following information:

User Name: podcasts@lsfwriters.com
Password: liberty

To access Motionbox, please click on this link:
<http://www.motionbox.com/user/login>

Please note that Motionbox will only display the most recent podcasts on the first page. To see more podcasts, click on FAVORITES.

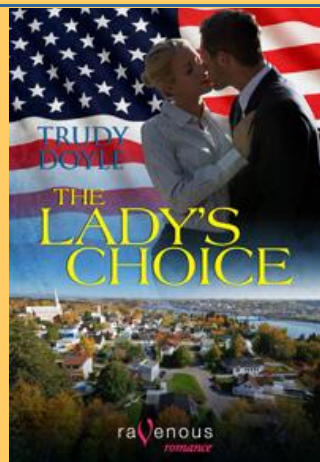
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Member News:

Shobhan Bantwal will be appeared at the Edison Public Library on September 11th to discuss her latest release, **THE SARI SHOP WIDOW**. Here is a picture of Shobhan at the signing.



Caridad Piñeiro appeared at the DragonCon Convention in Atlanta, Georgia and participated in a panel on Staying Afloat in an Uncertain Publishing Industry. Here is a picture of Caridad at her booth with fellow authors, Joy Nash, Susan Sizemore and Raz Steel.



Trudy Doyle makes her Home Shopping Network debut Monday as part of a six-book set of Contemporary Romances in HSN's "Escape with Romance" promotion! Come join Ravenous Publisher Holly Schmidt as she introduces this fabulous collection at the following times:

Monday September 14 - 8:35am - 8:55am then 4:35 pm- 4:55pm. Early Tuesday September 15 -3:00am - 3:20am.

http://electronics.hsn.com/escape-with-romance-exclusive-6-book-collection_p-5700283_xp.aspx?cm_mmc=rss*Browse*2*NA



Debra Mullins is thrilled to announce that she has accepted an offer for her paranormal romance trilogy from Heather Osborn at Tor Forge.

FIRST SALE!

Karen Bostrom Walling is excited to announce that she has recently signed a contract with The Wild Rose Press to publish her first romantic suspense novel, ***DANGEROUS SANDS***. Writing as Karen Bostrom, she has just begun the editing rounds process of her book which will be part of the *Last Rose in Summer* line. She would like to thank the members of Liberty State Fiction Writers and other writing organizations, and especially her critique partners, for all their hope and support throughout the years.



Various members of the Liberty States Fiction Writers participated in the group's first street fairs in Red Bank and Jamesburg.





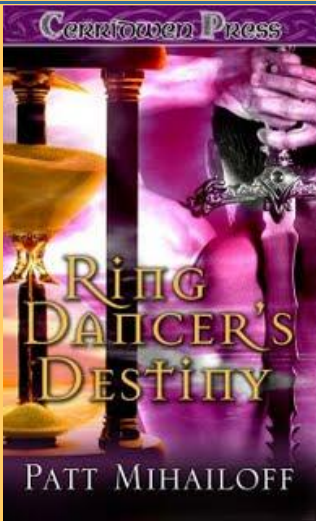
Joann Hali is pleased to announce she was admitted to RWA's PAN group in September.



Melinda Leigh is now represented by Jill Marsal of the Marsal Lyon Literary Agency.



Christine Bush is happy to announce that she's gotten a contract from Wild Rose Press for her new contemporary, **Cindy's Prince**. There is no publication date yet, but the book will be in print and e-book. This one is an upside down fairy tale, set in Philadelphia. "What happens if Cindy loves living her single parent life, helping out in her struggling community and absolutely refuses to go hide in the castle? It takes a true Prince to adapt to car seats and occasional baby puke in order to live happily ever after..."



Patt Mihailoff was honored at this year's Golden Apple Awards as the 2009 Author of the year.



Registration for the 2010 Create Something Magical Conference is now open! Please visit our conference page:

<http://www.libertystatesfictionwriters.com/lsf-writers-conference/>

On this page you can find information about our speakers, see the list of attending editors and agents, sign up to receive conference email updates and, of course, register to attend the conference. Over the coming months we will be posting information on the workshops, any additional speakers/editors/agents that will be attending, when editor/agent appointment sign up will open, as well as the conference schedule to this page, so stop back often.

We've tried to streamline the process of members adding events to the Liberty Calendar of Events (<http://www.libertystatesfictionwriters.com/calendar/>) (Just click on an event to expand it for additional

details).

To do this streamlining, we've created a public Google Calendar!

If you have an upcoming event that you wish to publicize, please cut and paste this link into your browser:

http://www.google.com/calendar/embed?src=contact%40lsfwriters.com&ctz=America/New_York

You will be taken to the Google Calendar program where you can enter your information. Click on the small "Google Calendar" icon in the bottom right corner of the calendar. The user name and password are as follows:

User Name: contact@lsfwriters.com

Password: Isfwmember

Please edit only your own events. Please list only those events in which you are personally participating. All members, whether SPA or not, may enter their writing-related events in the Liberty States Fiction Writers' Calendar of Events.

In case you forget this information, you may find the links and passwords in the Members Only section as well.

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Upcoming & Recent Member Releases:



Dark Legacy by Anna DeStefano

September 2009

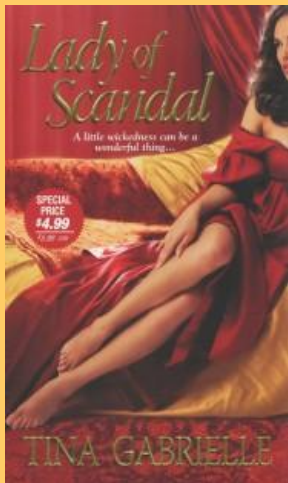
Dorchester Publishing

ISBN 10: 0-505-52819-3

ISBN 13: 978-0-505-52819-3

"Die!" scream her nightmares. The voice is her sister's, the compulsion stronger than any ordinary dream. Maddie Temple can't go through this again. Her twin has been in a coma for the last ten years. Their psychic link was severed. At least, that's what she thought.

But there's a lot Maddie doesn't know-about the 200-year-old curse on her family, about the shadowy group that wants to exploit the Temple twins' powers for themselves, about the sexy psychiatrist offering to help her. The only way to find the answers and avoid being pulled into the abyss of madness is to trust her heart and confront her...DARK LEGACY



***Lady of Scandal* by Tina Gabrielle**

Kensington / Zebra

September 2009 Release

ISBN-10: 1420108484

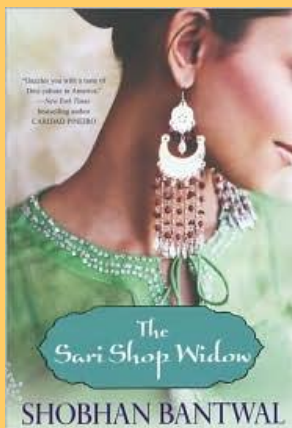
ISBN-13: 978-1420108484

A WOMAN WITH A SECRET

Victoria Ashton has intelligence and ambition—qualities of little value to most marriage-minded gentlemen of the ton. Her own father has no idea of Victoria's hidden life as an anonymous trader in London's stock market. But her hopes of independence are shattered when her father's enemy, Blake Mallory, assumes Charles Ashton's debts and presents Victoria with a stark choice: live with him as his mistress for one year, or condemn her family to bankruptcy.

A GENTLEMAN WITH RESOLVE

For years Blake has dreamed of justice, and his scheme becomes all the sweeter when he sees the beauty that Victoria has become. Scoundrel he may be, but Blake will not force anyone into his bed. He intends to entice Victoria, one wicked kiss at a time. But with a woman as spirited and sensual as Victoria, seduction works both ways—and a plan rooted in revenge can blossom into a scandalous passion...

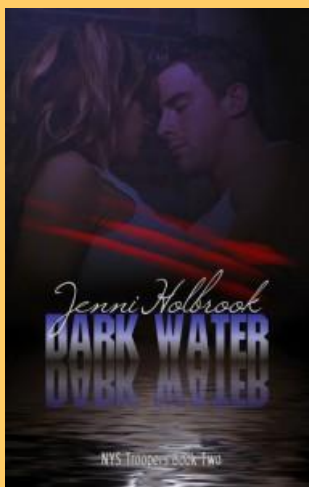


***The Sari Shop Widow* by Shobhan Bantwal**

September 2009

Kensington Publishing Corp

Set on the streets of Edison, New Jersey's Little India, a young businesswoman rediscovers the magic of love and family while she fights to save her failing sari boutique



***Dark Water* by Jenni Holbrook**

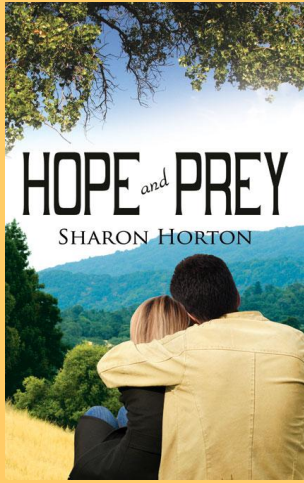
The Wild Rose Press

Available October 9, 2009

ISBN# 1-60154-547-9

Lacy DeGeorgio never imagined she'd ever have to be responsible for anyone but herself. But when her sister is murdered, Lacy vows to take care of her nephew as well as find her sister's killer.

State Trooper Frank Harmon's life changed the day he pulled Hannah DeGeorgio's body from the bottom of the lake. Her death was ruled an accident, but Frank knows better, and he blames himself. He sets out to make sure Hannah's killer is brought to justice and in the process makes a home for a family he thought he never wanted.



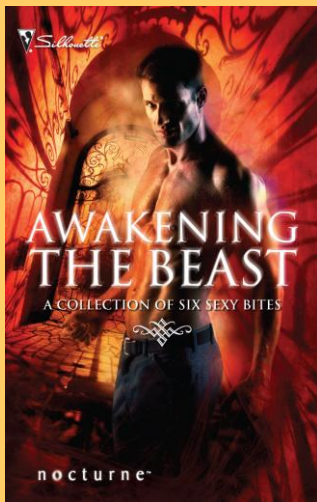
***Hope and Prey* by Sharon Horton**

The Wild Rose Press

Available October 30, 2009

ISBN# 1-60154-577-0

In the world of underground newspapers, Kurt Reid knows truth and lies could destroy a life ~ but when Andrea "AJ" Summers enters his life, he learns they could also destroy a love...theirs.



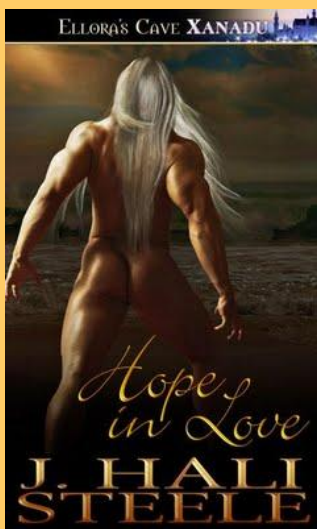
AWAKENING THE BEAST

October 2009

Silhouette Nocturne

Including "HONOR CALLS" by Caridad Pineiro

As FBI Assistant Director, Jesus Hernandez expects a fair share of crime in New York City. Yet nothing could have prepared him for what he witnesses outside a Goth bar called the Blood Bank: hunter Michaela Ramirez slaying an elder vampire. Jesus is skeptical at first, but Michaela is determined to make him believe in the supernatural beings that roam the city. And as Michaela draws him deeper into an underground world of darkness and danger, he finds her sexy bravado is more than he can resist.... But there is one thing Michaela is afraid to tell Jesus: that she is part vampire herself. Because even though she's fallen for the enticing agent, everyone she's gotten close to in the past has run away...or died.



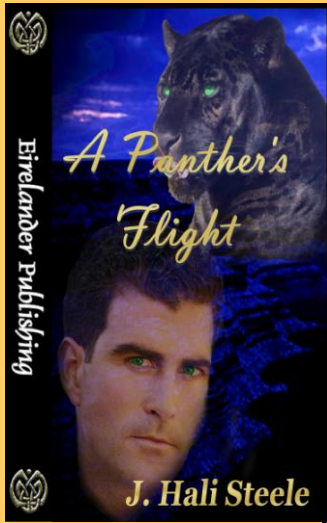
***HOPE IN LOVE* by J. Hali Steele**

October 2009

Ellora's Cave

The world is changing. Hope is fading. Darkness beckons. And one angel holds the answer.

Tired of death, destruction and mankind's race to ruination, Ramiel, archangel of hope, finds it harder and harder to care about those he's meant to help. Now, the Fates have decreed that Ramiel must mate with Yael, an exulted human. On his shoulders rides the universe's only hope for survival, but the ties that bind him to Yael force him to face his own unexpected reckoning.



A PANTHER'S FLIGHT by J. Hali Steele

October 2009

Eirelander Publishing

Fane Baron is a Reign warrior—a sanctioned killer charged with hunting down the rogue vampyre cats of the Sovereign Kind. Haunted by memories of stalking his best friend and afraid the same contagious addiction will consume him, Fane makes a drastic decision; he'll stop taking blood. He knows the consequences of his decision, the problem is, can he live with himself once he meets her...? Edy Adair is in a predicament of her uncle's making. A few days from her first change to a panther, already dealing with the clawing emotional turmoil of being in heat, she's headed on a short flight to Arizona with the vampyre cat of her dreams. Only problem, he isn't the mate chosen for her by her parents. The fact is he killed her cousin!

To see additional upcoming Member Releases, [please click here!](#)

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Spotlight on:

SPOTLIGHT:

Mary Kennedy is a multi-published author and a clinical psychologist in private practice on the east coast. She specializes in forensic work, and her clients have included murderers, psychopaths, and convicted felons.

She writes young adult novels, middle grade fiction, and mysteries. She has sold 33 novels and has made both the Waldenbooks and Publishers Weekly best-seller lists. Her books have sold twelve million copies in several countries.

In addition to her doctorate in psychology, she has a Master's degree in Dramatic Arts and has studied acting at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in Manhattan. In her quest for a “real job,” she once worked as a television news writer for a CBS affiliate and as a copywriter for a rock radio station.

When not traveling to exotic locales, she lives with her husband and five neurotic cats. The cats have resisted all her efforts to psychoanalyze them, but she remains optimistic.

Mary is also the Crime Fiction Reporter for the Examiner and you can catch her articles at <http://www.examiner.com/x-10591-Crime-Fiction-Examiner>. Also look for Mary at LSF Writers Create Something Magical Conference in March 2010.



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Road Story:

My Road Story

By M. Kate Quinn

By second grade I knew that I was among those who must write. My teacher, Mrs. Sprowl, pulled me aside one day, with my story about a lion and a little boy in her hands, and told me that one day I should become a writer. And, magically, I knew that's what I was and ever shall be.

As all of us know, when you're a writer you can't not be a writer. Oh, you can avoid the call, make excuses for decades like I did ("I'm raising my family!", "I'm working full-time!", "I'm getting divorced!", "I'm a middle-aged member of Match.com!", "I'm in love!", "I'm getting married again!"), but the truth is you can't not write the same way you can't suddenly lose the bone structure you inherited from Aunt Mary or lose your allergy to mold. You are what you are. And that's a good thing.

Although I've put my toes into the writing pond all my life by penning poetry, love stories, and ghost stories, I made the decision to take a real plunge about eight years ago. I knew in my heart that I did not want to spend any time in later years wondering "What if?"

First, I thought of my pen name, which I love. I was born Marykate Quinlisk, Italian mom, Irish dad. I was named after my paternal grandmother, Catherine, and her ever-childless sister, Mary. It was the year that *The Quiet Man* was released in Hollywood, a John Wayne classic, and Maureen O'Hara's character was named Marykate. For years, I have kept a slip of paper with my pen name on it in my wallet like a good luck charm. I believe in good luck charms; hence, they tend to work.

Next I joined a writers' group up in North Jersey, where I used to live before I married my terrific new husband. The same way you have to try on shoes before you buy the ones right for your feet, that group didn't fit me. So, I moved on and joined RWA and the NJ branch. At the time I had three chapters of a romance novel under my belt, and I thought I was on my way. Then I took notes and listened to people in the know and realized I was so not in the know. At best, I was JV sitting alongside Varsity. I had to talk myself out of slipping out the back of the room and going home to reality. But I didn't.

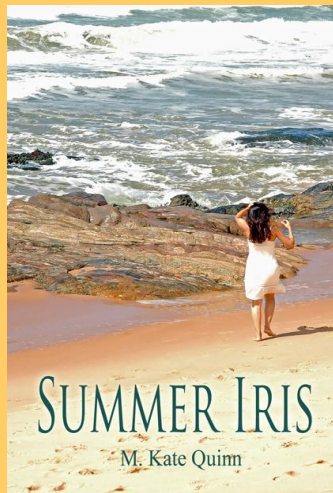
I went to every workshop I could. I went to my first conference and knew no one. I wandered into the freebie room and picked up some promo items, a note pad, a pen, bookmarks. And I also took a collapsible hairbrush monogrammed with one author's name, "**Kathye Quick.**" I remember when I picked it up thinking that someday, with any luck, I would wind up on a shelf right next to this author with a similar name. I tucked the brush into my purse, another good luck charm, and I still have it.

I kept writing the whole time, feeling myself getting better at it. Then I joined a critique group that has been a godsend. The three of us are amigos, musketeers, name it. My first sale has been a kind of victory for Shari and Stacey as theirs will be for me.

I sold my first romantic comedy, **SUMMER IRIS**, to The Wild Rose Press; it is due to be released next spring. Needless to say, I'm flabbergasted and elated. I read the confirming email from my editor three times just to make sure I wasn't hallucinating before I called my husband to come to the computer. Then we did the dance of joy, grabbed a bottle of chardonnay (didn't have any champagne in the house), and went to my friend and neighbor's house and we toasted our brains out. I am working diligently on my second book, **MOONLIGHT AND VIOLET**, which will be part of my series, "The Perennials."

SUMMER IRIS is a reworked version of that first book I had begun. A key to its transformation was a golden nugget I picked up from one of Anne Walradt's workshops. She read aloud a rather benign love scene that was just short of a yawn. Then she read a snappy, interesting excerpt from another book and asked us to determine the better writer, which was no contest. Interestingly, they were both works by the same person. Only the second piece was written after the author had found her voice. I was amazed at the difference, and I looked yet-again at my measly three chapters. It, too, was kind of drippy, full of syrup, thick and non-flowing. Then I took into consideration that although I'm a diehard romantic I'm also pretty funny. I mean, they don't call you Class Clown for nothing. And I found my voice.

I will always be a work-in-progress and, lucky charms aside, any nugget of advice I could offer at this green stage of my career would be to keep listening and learning and never stop.



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Contests and Online Courses:

Contests:

Writer's Digest is now accepting entries for its 10th Annual Short Short Story Contest. Enter your story of no more than 1500 words, any fiction genre. First place wins \$3000, Second place \$1500, with more cash prizes for other entries. The entry fee is \$15. Deadline to enter is December 1, 2009. For more information and to enter online, go to <http://writersdigest.com/short> . *Courtesy Cynthia Sterling.*

DEADLY INK SHORT STORY CONTEST 2010

All stories must be no more than 5,000 words, take place in New Jersey, and include a "Deadly Incident." Winners will be announced at the Deadly Ink Mystery Conference luncheon. **NO ENTRY FEE.** You may submit more than one story, but please send each one separately.

Prizes:

First Place: \$100.00

Second Place: \$50.00

Third Place: \$25.00

In addition, winning entries and selected non-winning entries will be published in the *2010 Deadly Ink Anthology*, which will be available for sale at the 2010 conference. Profits from the sale of the anthology will be donated to Literacy Volunteers and The Christopher Reed Foundation. Contest Rules: Not open to employees or family members of Deadly Ink. Entries may not be more than 5,000 words in length, must take place in New Jersey, and include a "Deadly Incident" (murder, mayhem) that needs to be solved. Entries must be original work of the entrant and may not have been previously published. You do not need to attend the conference to enter the contest. Entries must be postmarked between June 1, 2009, and February 15, 2010. For more information, please visit <http://www.deadlyink.com/short.html> .

Writer's Digest Pop Fiction Awards

Deadline: 11/2/2009

Writer's Digest is now accepting entries in the Pop Fiction Awards. Submit your entry (or entries!) now for your chance to win \$2,500 cash, \$100 worth of *Writer's Digest* Books and the 2010 *Novel & Short Story Writer's Market*.

Compete and Win in 5 Categories!

- Romance
- Mystery/Crime Fiction
- Science Fiction/Fantasy
- Thriller/Suspense
- Horror

[Click here for additional information or to enter online!](#)

WOW! Women On Writing Flash Fiction Contest

Deadline: MONTHLY

Entry Fee: \$5.00

Prize: Cash: \$200, \$150, \$100, Plus over \$2,000 in Prizes + publication + \$50 gift certificates

WOW! Women On Writing hosts a quarterly flash fiction contest open to English-speaking contestants across the globe. For more information, please visit www.wow-womenonwriting.com .

Suspense Magazine's SECOND Annual Writing Contest / Sweepstakes

Winners will receive the following:

1. **Grand Prize** - 12 books (some autographed) from each of the 12 authors of the month for 2009. To keep updated on the authors of the month, click on the author link above. Right now we have John Saul, John Lesocrat, John Sandford, Charlotte Hughes, and Steve Berry. The images on the left might not be necessarily the exact book from that author that you will receive. All books are in brand new condition, many coming from the author directly.
2. **Second Place** - \$50.00 gift card to Amazon.com
3. **Third Place** - \$25.00 gift card to Amazon.com

For more information, please visit <http://www.suspensemagazine.com/contest.html>

Please note that we do not endorse any of these contests and/or publications ask that you check the fine print regarding the contest rules, publication terms and also confirm the deadlines in question. Thank you.

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Online Courses:

BEGINNING WRITER WORKSHOPS

Beginning Writer Workshops offers online writing workshops for writers of all fiction genres, as well as non-

fiction and memoir writing. These monthly online workshops, taught by experts with a proven track record, are designed to help all writers build successful careers in their chosen area. Courses begin in September and are \$25 per course. Check out this year's selection at <http://www.BeginningWriterWorkshops.com> .

Online Workshop: "Help! I've Lost My Muse"
Presented by author and literary agent Lois Winston
October 1-31, 2009

FMI: <http://yellowroserwa.com/workshops.php>

About the Workshop:

What do you do when Maizy Muse takes off for parts unknown and leaves you staring at a blank computer screen? In this hands-on workshop that employs everything from Madison Avenue advertising to Dear Abby, from Bruce Springsteen to standing in line at the supermarket check-out, Lois Winston offers some unorthodox tips for recapturing that AWOL muse, banishing writer's block and stimulating creativity. Students will be encouraged to participate in the various assignments (sometimes bizarre, always fun) that accompany each lesson. The workshop will end with the "Help, I've Lost My Muse Challenge," which, if completed, will result in the creation of captivating characters and a dynamic plot for the student's next manuscript.

About Lois Winston: Award-winning author and literary agent Lois Winston has published humorous, cross-genre, contemporary novels, romantic suspense and non-fiction essays. She also writes mysteries, women's fiction, and middle grade books, often drawing upon her extensive experience as an artist and crafts designer for her source material. Winston's published novels have received accolades from readers, librarians, booksellers, reviewers, and fellow authors. *TALK GERTIE TO ME* was the recipient of the Readers and Book Buyers Best Award, took second place in both the Beacon Awards and Laurel Wreath Awards, and was nominated for a Reviewers' Choice Award and a Golden Leaf Award. *LOVE, LIES AND A DOUBLE SHOT OF DECEPTION* was the winner of the Winter Rose Award for Excellence in Romantic Fiction, the More Than Magic Award, and the Laurie Award. Visit her at <http://www.loiswinston.com>.

Take a walk on the Dark Side, the Criminal Mind
Payment for Class: Talk a walk on the Dark Side must be sent by September 28, 2009.

Have you ever wondered how to create criminal/villainous minds with reality and flair? Join Dr. Cynthia Lea Clark as she takes you through the darker sides of a character's mind. "I would love to say it's as easy as learning how to put together all the pieces as easy as 1, 2, 3, but it's a bit more complicated. In our case, we will start with profiling, what it is and how to do it. From that we look at the crime and decide what type of criminal we're looking to write about. Here we will weave in and out of real life as we plot, carry out and hopefully solve your writing needs. Using the psychological behavior of your criminal/villain's mind by looking at—The Dark Side."

Biography: Born and raised in New Orleans, Louisiana, Cynthia Lea Clark began her acting career with Repertory Theatre of New Orleans, under Miss June Havoc. While attending Northwestern University where she attained multiple degrees, she was a former Miss Chicago (Miss USA), she then attended nursing school and became a Firefighter Paramedic. After working in Chicago, she moved to Los Angeles, to continue both her education and acting. As she worked on her Masters in Psychology and then a Doctorate, she appeared on many television shows such as *Days of our Lives* and *STAT*. During her time on *STAT* she was stalked which led her to Forensic Psychopathology. She has over 75 interviews with serial killers, mass murderers and other killers. She founded CrimelnMind.com with former FBI agent and author Rae Monet. Today she mixes Forensics with writing and acting as well as completing another Doctorate; this time in neural linguistics.

Registration Information: Cost for the Online class is \$15.00 for CAMEO members for one class, for both classes the cost is \$25.00. For RWA® members the cost is \$25.00 for one class. For non-RWA members the cost is \$30.00 for one class or \$50.00 for both classes. Payments may be sent via Paypal to cameowriterstwo@yahoo.com. If you have questions you may email them to Lpatrice9@aol.com. Subject line should say CAMEO class. Checks may be sent to: Ann Pullum, 5019 So. 164th St., Omaha, NE 68135

OCTOBER 2009

STORY TELLING CRAFT—MORE THAN WRITING TECHNIQUE

INSTRUCTOR: Shannon Donnelly

WHEN: Oct 5 to Oct 23 (8 lessons posted over three weeks)

COST: \$15 NEORWA members/\$20 for all others. www.neorwa.com for registration information or contact Kristine Thompson at thompos@ameritech.net.

WORKSHOP: "Storytelling, the language art that predates written history, is also a widespread, dynamic, and varied art form in the modern world." -- National Storytelling Network

A good story is not just good writing...

There are workshops to improve your writing craft, to show more, to create characters, and on just about every aspect related to fiction. But a good story takes more than good writing: in fact, you can have poor or just okay writing, but still have a great story that grabs readers and sells its way into published book and movie deals. By taking a look at some of the technique of "storytellers" this workshop looks at how the very ancient, and still effective, arts of storytelling can be used by writers to spin a good yarn on the page. This workshop covers a wide range of storytelling techniques that writers can use.

ABOUT THE INSTRUCTOR: Shannon Donnelly's writing has won numerous awards, including a RITA nomination for Best Regency, the Grand Prize in the "Minute Maid Sensational Romance Writer" contest, judged by Nora Roberts, RWA's Golden Heart, the Laurel Wreath, the Winter Rose, the Bookseller's Best, and multiple finalists in the Holt Medallion, the Colorado ACE, the Golden Quill, and others. Her work has repeatedly earned 4½ Star Top Pick reviews from *Romantic Times Magazine*, as well as praise from Booklist and other reviewers, who note: "simply superb"... "wonderfully uplifting"....and "beautifully written." In addition to her Regency romances, she has had novellas in several anthologies, and has written young adult horror and computer games. Currently, she is a member of the several chapters of RWA, and she is a past-president of the Beau Monde, Regency Chapter of RWA. She has spoken at past RWA National Conferences, as well as other chapters and conferences, and regularly gives workshops online. Her abiding passions include—besides writing—her dogs, reading, gardening, painting, belly dancing, and the ever present horses in her life. She can be found online at <http://www.shannondonnelly.com> or <http://www.myspace.com/randomfreshink>.

Please note that we do not endorse any of these online courses and ask that you check the fine print regarding the online course rules and also confirm the deadlines in question. Thank you.

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Novelists Inc. Conference

Sept 30 – Oct 4 - St. Louis, MO

Speakers include award-winning authors, industry experts and more, but this conference is for Novelists Inc. members only. For more information, please visit <http://www.ninc.com/conferences/2009/index.asp>

Moonlight and Magnolias

Georgia Romance Writers

Oct 2 – 4 – Atlanta, GA

Keynote Speaker is Sherrilyn Kenyon. Also look for panels by LSF Writers members Caridad Piñeiro and Rayna Vause. General registration attendees must register by September 1, 2009. Late registration fees apply 9/1/09—9/15/09. No registration after 9/15/09. For more information, please visit

<http://www.georgiaromancewriters.org/mm-conference/>

The 2009 Heart of the West Conference

RWA Utah Chapter—Writing: A Magical Journey

October 9 & 10, 2009

at The Lodges at Deer Valley in Park City, Utah

Featured author and Key Note Speaker

NYT Bestselling Author, RITA Award Winner Rachel Gibson; Award Luncheon Key Note Speaker; 2009 RITA Finalist, Author of more than 30 books, RaeAnne Thayne; Featured Editor—Acquiring for Avon, Amanda Bergeron; Featured Agents—Kelly Mortimer of Mortimer Literary Agency, Christine Witthohn of Book Cents Literary Agency. Also PRO/PAN Workshops and book signing.

Conference fee: URWA members \$149.00—Non-URWA members \$165.00

Special Group rates on rooms – Hotel rooms \$99 – One bedroom suites \$129 per night. Limited number, make your reservations soon to assure rate. If you would like to donate promotional items, books, bookmarks, magnets, etc. please email mary@marymartinez.com. For registration forms and more information check our website: www.utahrwa.com <http://www.utahrwa.com/>.

Bouchercon

Oct 15 – Oct 18 - Indianapolis, IN

Mystery convention featuring guest of honor Michael Connelly, toastmistress S.J. Rozan, honored youth author Wendelin Van Draanen, and more. For more information, please visit

<http://www.bouchercon2009.com/>

International Women's Writing Guild Big Apple Conference

Oct 17 – Oct 18 - New York, NY

Featuring Lynn Barrett on "Plot: The Structure of Story in Fiction, Memoir, and Narrative Nonfiction" as well as Meet the Authors and Meet the Agents open houses. For more information, please visit <http://iwwg.org>

South Carolina Writers Workshop

Oct. 23-25, Myrtle Beach, SC

Attending literary agents: Janet Reid (FinePrint Literary); Elaine Spencer (The Knight Agency); Holly Root (Waxman Agency); Jenny Bent (The Bent Agency), Jeff Kleinman (Folio Literary Management); and several more. To see the full conference schedule, visit www.myscww.org.

2009 Backspace Agent-Author Seminar

November 5 & 6 – New York City

Two days of workshops, panel discussions, and small-group meetings in the heart of the publishing world with ONLY literary agents on the program. Agents include Janet Reid, Colleen Lindsay, Holly Root, Stephany Evans, Emmanuelle Alspaugh, Paige Wheeler, Miriam Kriss, Jennifer DeChiara, and many more. Early registration discount through September 15. For more information, please visit www.backspacewritersconference.com.

New England Crime Bake

11/13 - 11/15/09 - Dedham, MA

Featuring bestselling author Sue Grafton, a variety of workshops, and the chance to pitch to editors and agents. For more information, please visit <http://crimebake.org/index.htm>

SLEUTHFEST 2010

02/26/-02/28/09 – Boca Raton, FL

The Florida Chapter of the Mystery Writers of America presents SLEUTHFEST 2010 featuring David Morrell and Stephen Cannell. For more information, please visit www.sleuthfest.com.

Liberty States Fiction Writers

Create Something Magical Conference

March 13, 2010

Featuring F. Paul Wilson * Virginia Kantra * Sarah Langan * Caridad Piñeiro * Mary Kennedy * and more... Plus: Editor/Agent Appointments and a Networking Reception

Registration Opens October 1, 2009

Registration Fees:

Members: \$95 - Non-Members: \$115

Where: Renaissance Woodbridge Hotel, Iselin, New Jersey

For more information, please visit <http://www.lsfwriters.com>.

Please note that we do not endorse any of these conferences and ask that you check the fine print regarding the conference and also confirm the deadlines in question. Thank you.

If you wish to volunteer to do the Contests, Conferences and Online Courses section, please contact Anne Walradt.

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Market News:

Editor News:

At St. Martin's Minotaur Books, **Kelley Ragland** has been named editorial director. *Courtesy Publishers Marketplace.*

At Phoenix Books, Inc., **Dan Smetanka** has been appointed editor-in-chief. *Courtesy Publishers Marketplace.*

Amy Tannenbaum has been promoted to editor at Atria Books and Washington Square Press. *Courtesy Publishers Marketplace.*

At Pocket Books, **Jaime Costas** has been promoted to associate editor. *Courtesy Publishers Marketplace.*

Kensington editor **Kate Duffy**, 56, died recently after a long illness. Among the many honors she received, Duffy won the Romance Writers of America's inaugural Industry Award in 1991. Kate was the founding editor of Silhouette Books, Harlequin's Worldwide Library imprint, Pocket's Tapestry Books, and Kensington's Brava Books. A memorial service will be scheduled soon. *Courtesy Publishers Marketplace.*

Agent News:

Erica Silverman has joined Trident Media Group as a literary agent. *Courtesy Publishers Marketplace.*

Adam Korn has joined DeFiore and Company as an agent after a short stint at Vigliano Associates. *Courtesy Publishers Marketplace.*

Natanya Wheeler has joined the Nancy Yost Literary Agency as an agent. *Courtesy Publishers Marketplace.*

Myrsini Stephanides joins the Carol Mann Agency, focusing on pop culture, music, humor, popular science, narrative nonfiction, and memoir, as well as offbeat literary, graphic, and YA fiction. *Courtesy Publishers Marketplace.*

Tara Weikum has been promoted to editorial director in the Children's division at Harper and will continue to be responsible for developing and publishing single-title teen fiction and tween girls' fiction. *Courtesy Publishers Marketplace.*

Amy Wideman has been promoted to senior editor at becker&mayer! Book Producers. *Courtesy Publishers Marketplace.*

Publisher News:

Quartet Press is closing. For more information, please visit <http://quartetpress.com/>

Samhain Publishing is looking for submissions for two anthologies on Angels and Demons (Nov. 1

deadline) and Red Hot Fairy Tales Anthology (Feb 1, 2010, deadline). For more information, please visit this link:

<http://www.samhainpublishing.com/submissions#fairytale>

If you wish to volunteer to do the Market News section, please contact Anne Walradt.

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New and Noteworthy Publishing News:

Please click on the text to access the link:

[Publishers *try* to learn to love the Web](#)

[17-Year-Old Girl Has 10-Book Deal with Publishing Arm of Deseret Book](#)

[Why James Patterson is worth 150 million](#)

[BN to Authors: Give Us Links Or We Won't Sell Your Books: Really?](#)

[B&N: We Don't Extort Author Links](#)

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Current Bestsellers:

Please click on the text to access the link:

[Booksense Indie Bestsellers](#)

[NY Times Bestsellers](#)

[Publishers Weekly](#)

[USA Today Bestsellers](#)

[Washington Post Bestsellers](#)

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www.lsfwriters.com

[Become a Fan on](#)

**President's Column
by Gail Freeman**

So much exciting news to share! Registration is now open for the mini conference in March, and we must be doing something right. The number of hits on the website is soaring, and members who have signed up to attend our first ever one day event are rising right along with it. If you have time, head on over to the site and check out the great line up. And remember, we're not done yet. I understand Rayna Vause and her crew are still working to fill in a few more spots. Not that I want to wish my life away, but I have the urge to see March get here. Now.

Also this month, our first author brochure is out in the mail. It should be winging its way to over five hundred booksellers and librarians as I write this. As a matter of fact, discussion is underway to start the next go around, so if you have a book coming out early next year, keep your eyes open for that announcement.

But the project that I'm really excited about is our radio show. That's right, we'll be having a live radio program that will then be converted to a podcast on our website. There are just so very many possibilities with this project that it boggles the mind. Right now the Board is discussing author interviews to be placed on the website for the general public to access. What's great about this is that it doesn't matter where you live, if you have a book coming out and a phone, we can do a live chat and let everyone hear it. The other item we have under discussion is interviews with industry professionals and perhaps experts in various fields. And because our members are so special, these will be located only in the member's only section. Member Chris Redding has agreed to be our "hostess" for these events, which should last about fifteen minutes.

This is a totally new endeavor and will be rather hit and miss in the beginning until we get all the bugs worked out, but the scope of what can be done is awesome! One of the features is live call-in of questions, which we're not doing initially, but which could be great for finding the answer to the one writing problem that has been eluding you forever. As I said, we're working out the protocol, but what we might do initially is announce the speaker and take questions from the membership to be asked. We'll be playing it by ear in the beginning to see what works and what doesn't.

One thing that I think would really help this project along is finding out more about our members. In the newsletter we have two featured columns called the "Road Story" and "Author Spotlight." The "Road Story" can be written by any member—a few hundred words to tell us about yourself, why you started writing, and where you are in your publishing or pre-published career.

A mention of what you do in your day job just might get you a request to be one of our experts on the radio line-up. As for our Author Spotlight, we know you're out there, and we want to know more about you. We want you to toot your horn and tell us how you broke through and what you have published because it would be an inspiration to all of us (and then we'd know that you are there and can snag you for the radio <G>).

All of this is what has made this such a fun thing for me. All these firsts! And nothing preconceived of how things "should" be done. Or that something "can't" be done. Why, it's just like our writing. The sky's the limit! Go for it.

Gail

Gail Freeman, President

Gail has been writing for twelve years and is a yet to be a published author. Ms. Freeman served as President of another writing organization for two years and has also served as Vice President, Treasurer, Special Events Chair, and Hospitality and Critique Chair in that organization. On a national level, Gail was one of the founding staff members of the Romance Writers of America's electronic newsletter, eNotes and served as editor of that publication for a number of years. In 2005, she was awarded the RWA's prestigious Service Award for her commitment and volunteer efforts. She also chaired the RWA's 2007 Chapter Newsletter Contest and the 2008 ad hoc committee for reform recommendations and changes to that contest. For the past eight years she has been a member of the RWA Communication Committee. After being out of high school for twenty years, Gail went back to college and obtained her

associate degree in accounting. A lifelong resident of the Jersey Shore, Ms. Freeman believes in happy endings and working towards your goals, no matter how long it takes.



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Writing for Profit and Credibility By N.L. Quatrano

Prior to selling your first novel and collecting your six-figure advance, you can earn enough money with your writing, to help with dues and conference fees, maybe even the phone bill. The icing on that particular cake is that you'll also improve your writing while you're at it. Just because you aspire for a career in fiction writing, don't discount the opportunities of non-fiction submissions.

All of us have roles in life: Employee or business owner, parent, spouse, boss. All of these roles require specific skills and knowledge. Balancing checkbooks, organizing households and work spaces, and completing projects are all fodder for short, useful, and paying articles. Organization is one of the number one projects of most Americans, year round!

Write articles for local charitable organizations or offer to assist with projects like publicity or working on a newsletter. Libraries, nursing homes, assisted living centers all appreciate volunteers to help with communication projects. Writing and editing are skills that get stronger the more you do them.

What are your hobbies? Landscaping? Boating? Carpentry? How-to magazines and articles are popular and can pay either flat fees or upward of fifty cents a word.

Are you single and looking? Relationships are hot topics and always will be. Your experiences or your observations in this arena can make terrific articles or columns for local newspapers, targeted groups, or national magazines. And don't forget the *True Confession* market which is always looking for short, well written stories, and it pays very well.

Are you a member of the Baby Boomer or Sandwich Generation? Per the 2005 US Census, this is the largest identifiable generation group ever. What have you learned in your 50+ years? How to manage adult children, grandchildren, and aging parents? What solutions to specific challenges can you share with others? Wellness and medical publications seldom have full time staff and will pay for well written articles.

Memoirs can not only be powerful articles for religious and secular publications, but can be good selling stand-alone books, as well. In this tell-all society and era of disclosure, tell the tale you think will be most riveting and, be it article or book, if well written, it will earn you a paycheck.

And, last but not least, remember your writing journey. You have learned things that others will find useful. Inspirational, craft oriented, or business related articles are always needed. From the *Writer's Digest* to a large variety of writer related magazines and websites, there is no shortage of opportunity to publish articles in this arena.

Your payment may not always be in dollars, but experience for that writing resume is important, too. Decide what's in it for you, then go for it! For more tips on writing opportunities, one of my favorite websites is

www.writersweekly.com.

Nancy Quatrano has been publishing short romantic and mystery fiction since 1999. She's been a contributor to Romance Writers Report, Clued In, Crime & Suspense and other writing-professional publications over the years, with articles regarding the business of writing and interviews of bestselling authors. A member of LSF Writers, Florida Writers Association, and Mystery Writers of America, Nancy runs a writing-for-hire business and continues to work on completing her mystery novel series.



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From Strippers to a Suspense Proposal by Caridad Pineiro

People often ask me what helps me create new stories. Is it an article I see in a newspaper? Sometimes, but more often than not, stories come to me thanks to the things that I am lucky enough to be able to experience.

A few months ago I was blessed to get away for a writers' weekend with some writing buddies. Our writing destination—Las Vegas.

Las Vegas! You may wonder how conducive that could be to writing, but after a few days I came away with the proposal for a brand new romantic suspense novel that is currently sitting with my editor for consideration.

How did that happen?

Well for starters, my friends and I spent some time talking out plots and helping each other with problems we were having. It's always good to bounce ideas off people to see if the idea is working. Then we spent time writing every day.

So now you're thinking—You could have done that anywhere.

Well, you're right, but the one thing about Las Vegas—or any new location—was going around and exploring since many of those places and activities generated the idea for that new romantic suspense proposal.

For example, we took a class on stripping and lap dancing! Yep, you're reading it right. Why? Well, as I bumped my knees on the pole, my brain was busy figuring out how the heroine in the book could tempt her hero.

A spa trip yielded yet more insights on temptation, while seeing all the construction going on prompted ideas of what would happen if the hero happened to be building a casino in Las Vegas. Add all those themed casinos, it occurred to me what kind of theme was missing and what kind of casino my hero could be building.





What about the suspense you're wondering? Research into the problems casino owners face, like prostitution, money laundering, card cheats, etc. got my mind going about what would be the action behind the romance (and no, not spilling the beans just yet on what I chose!)



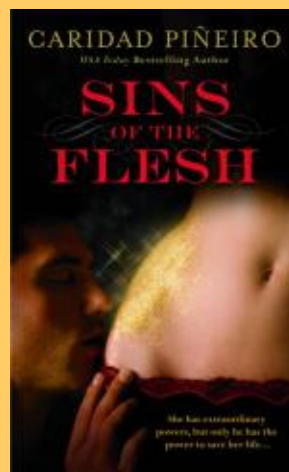
Last but not least, a hike into the Red Rock Canyon provided the perfect setting for a suspenseful chase scene!

I bet you're saying to yourself, "But what if I can't get away to some place new?"

Well, look around at the place where you are. What kinds of things are there that you see every day but someone else might find interesting? Are there any places or events you could use in your novel? For example, an interesting local festival or landmark? Could they be the backdrop for your novel (think [Fort Hancock](#) as I did for [SINS OF THE FLESH](#)). Being intimately familiar with a locale often adds a level of authenticity that resonates with readers more so than an exotic locale.

Let your imagination run wild! It's your greatest gift as a writer. Maybe you'll find, like I did, that you can go from a stripper 101 class to a suspense novel just by flexing your imagination.

About the Author: *Caridad Piñeiro* is a NY Times and USA Today bestselling author of over 20 novels. When not writing, Caridad is a wife, mom, and partner in a Manhattan law firm. Look for **SINS OF THE FLESH** on Oct 27, 2009 (Grand Central Publishing), and **FURY CALLS** available March 2009 from Silhouette Nocturne. For more info on Caridad, please visit www.caridad.com or www.thecallingvampirenovels.com.



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Basic HTML
by Rayna Vause

Hypertext Markup Language, aka HTML, is a simple, universal computer language that allows you create web pages that can be viewed by anyone on the Web, regardless of what kind of computer or browser you are using. With it you can build an entire website, change the appearance of text or simply add a link into the body of an email. It's quite easy to learn and use. Don't scoff, it's true.

HTML is just a series of tags that are incorporated into a text document. To borrow a description, tags are a lot like stage directions, telling the browser what to do, and what props to use. Creating an HTML command is quite simple. Think of these commands as off and on switches which we'll call "tags." You'll need an opening tag to turn on what you want to do and a closing tag to turn off what was happening.

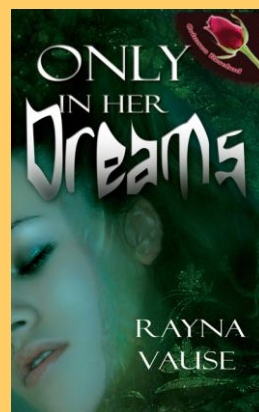
A tag will always start with the "less than" symbol (<), followed by an instruction, and end with the "greater than" symbol (>). For example, is an opening tag (the "on" switch), which tells your browser to make all of the text that follows bold. In order to turn off that command, you'll want to place a closing tag that looks like this at the end of the word or section of text that you want to be bold. Remember, a closing tag always has a forward slash in it.

Let's try another piece of HTML coding—this time we'll create a link. Foregoing the explanation of how this tag is constructed, we'll skip straight to how to use the linking tag—<a href>. Let's start with the opening tag: . This tag is telling the browser that the following text should link to the website that you've placed inside the quotation marks in the tag. Next you're going to type the text that should appear as a link and follow it with the closing tag of . The command to link to another website should look like this: My Website.

You've just written your first HTML commands. For more information on HTML, tags, and what they do visit <http://www.w3schools.com/html/default.asp>. Another resource for basic HTML codes is <http://www.htmlcodetutorial.com/>.

With this simple computer language you can do small updates to your website, create a graphical newsletter to go out to your fans, build a MySpace page, and much, much more.

Rayna Vause has a B.A. in English creative writing. She earned additional degrees in computer information systems and is working on degrees in computer graphics and vascular technologies. She currently works as a freelance website designer. Her debut novel *ONLY IN HER DREAMS* was released by The Wild Rose Press. For more information on Rayna please visit www.RaynaVause.com.



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The Tweet on Twitter
by Kathy Kulig

When the US Airways flight plugged into the Hudson River, a photo of the passengers huddled on the wing

and a tweet about the crash was tweeted via an iPhone before CNN broke the news. News spreads fast on Twitter.

What is it about Twitter that's so addicting? I think partly because it's a fun and easy way to network and socialize. For someone like me who's usually three steps behind the masses when it comes to a new social network, a new computer program, or the latest gadget, Twitter didn't take long for me to learn the basics.

A Few Twitter Basics

www.twitter.com - Twitter is a free micro-blogging service where people can connect to each other through short posts called tweets. Originally it was designed as a one-way communication device, but it now has grown into one of the largest social networking sites. It also works like a chatroom since you can chat and reply instantly. Posts must be 140 characters or less. You set up your account and profile, then connect with other "tweeple" or "tweeps" by following them or clicking on their link. You cannot request friends like you can in the other social networks. People have to choose to follow you. All the posts—"tweets" from those you are following—will be listed on your home page. Simply answer the question: "What are you doing?" And you're on your way.

Recently, I decided to do some research about "following." Why some tweeps or tweeple have tons of followers and others don't. Here are a few tips:

Why Am I NOT Being Followed?

If you're wondering why people are NOT following you on Twitter, maybe you're using it wrong.

- **Is your Profile incomplete?** Post a picture of *something*, even if it's not your face. What do you do? Where do you live? (Not your exact street address) and Do you have a website or blog URL posted?
- **Are you ALWAYS talking about yourself?** People aren't necessarily interested in the mundane, day-to-day stuff of your life ALL THE TIME unless you're very famous, or you can make those topics interesting and entertaining. People usually want to know things that relate to them. Twitter *is* a social network so you will talk about yourself, but maybe not all the time.
- **Then there's the other extreme: Are you presenting yourself as a business or as a person?** On the other extreme, no one likes to be spammed. We like to talk to people. Entertain, inform, and be social while sometimes promoting your business.
- **Are you on a following frenzy?** People look at the "following" to "followers" ratio. If you're following 1500 people but only 50 people are following you, you may be guilty of this. This is a red flag that someone is looking to spam. Start a conversation, be social, and people will follow you.
- **Are your tweets negative and whiny?** Whining and complaining turns people off—No brainer here—and can spiral into arguments.
- **Always lurking, never Tweeting?** Well, get out there and tweet. Reply to someone's tweet. RT (Retweet) someone's tweet that you found interesting. Brag about some else's accomplishments. The way you can respond to someone's tweet or direct a conversation to a person is by putting an "@" sign before their username then typing your comment. (@kathykulig saw your article in LSFw's newsletter).

Try Out #Hashtags

As with most things on the Internet and the Social Networks, when I find something new I first ask more savvy people about it, do some research, then, after dragging my feet for a while, I give it a try. (If I can figure it out.)

#Hashtags are one of those beasts. They're really not hard and really pretty cool. It's a favorite tool for groups, conferences, and event organizers. It's also a way for Tweeples to meet up and follow a specific topic. With the enormous amount of information flying around Twitter, #Hashtags are one way to sort and separate that information.

Once a topic is #Hashtagged, that topic is separated from the massive Tweeter stream to another site where it gets its own page. #Hashtagged items are easier to find and view others' posts. If you attended the recent Dragoncon Convention and wanted to keep track of all the Tweeting going on, you could check out #Dragoncon and read all the Tweets. If you want to post, just add "#Dragoncon" somewhere in your 140 character Tweet. One #Hashtag I use is #writegoal where Tweeples post their writing goals or woes for the day. Next time you're on Twitter, click on a #Hashtagged item and see where it takes you.

To start using #Hashtags you need to follow them first: <http://twitter.com/hashtags>

You can search for #Hashtags by entering key words or phrases in the search function on Twitter and looking for #Hashtags in the Tweets that are listed. Other ways to search: search.twitter.com , twemes.com , and tweetchat.com

You can create your own #Hashtag with any topic you want. But there is an unwritten rule—don't over use them or you dilute their usefulness.

Another link to check out is <http://twitter.com/Hashtag.org> It provides some information, list #Hashtags and can help you post, find, promote, and share #Hashtags.

More Cool Twitter Stuff

One Tweep I follow who has a ton of information available about Twitter is www.Twitter.com/simonleung When you start following Simon Leung, you'll get a direct message from him with a video and an opportunity to download his free guide "Whatchadoing." This PDF document has a ton of information about Twitter—88 pages worth—and it really is free.

A few things I found in this guide that I thought were helpful and some I've been using (there're a lot more):

Tweetdeck (www.tweetdeck.com) is the best way to manage your Tweets in rows that are easier to see.

1. Tweetlater (www.tweetlater.com) Can be used to schedule tweets, automatically send auto direct messages, auto-follow your follows, track keywords and more. Tweetbeep (www.tweetbeep.com) also tracks keywords.
2. Tweetburner (www.tweetburner.com) Track statistics on your outgoing links.
3. Twellow (www.twellow.com) There's a Yellow Pages for Twitter: If you're trying to find something or someone on Twitter, you can try out the search engine dedicated to all things Twitter.

How do you network and promote on Twitter?

Post Tweets and leave your website address or link to your blog. Remember only 140 characters max. If your URL address is too long, Twitter will shorten it automatically for you by clicking on the Tweet Shrink button on the top right on Tweetdeck or use the Tinyurl creator. Go to www.tinyurl.com and paste in your long URL address and it'll give you a condensed one. Here's an example: http://www.amazon.com/Desert-Damned-Kathy-Kulig/dp/1419958658/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1254192739&sr=1-1

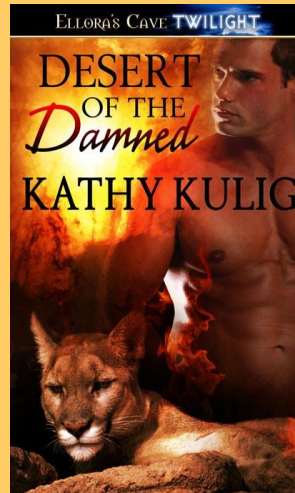
Using the Tinyurl creator the above link becomes: <http://bit.ly/2uDdlw>

Build your credibility by Retweeting other Tweets of interest, congratulating good news, sharing information,

providing entertainment. Post a new book release, a new sale, when you're speaking at conferences, etc. But be social. In time, people will notice.

Give Twitter a try if you haven't already. You can follow me at <http://twitter.com/kathykulig> and see who's following me. And check out my article about Twitter in the '09 August issue of *Romantic Times Magazine*.

Kathy Kulig writes paranormal, contemporary, and erotic romance for Ellora's Cave publishing. Her latest release, *DESERT OF THE DAMNED*, is the first in her shape shifter/dream series. She has had two novels, two novellas, and a number of short stories published in addition to more than three dozen nonfiction articles in newspapers, magazines, and online. For more information, visit www.kathykulig.com



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