

Liberty States Fiction Writers

New York - New Jersey - Pennsylvania



June 2010

Volume 2, Number 5

Let Freedom Ring!

www.lsfwriters.com

**Liberty States
Fiction Writers
PO Box 2914
Westfield, NJ 07090**

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(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)

Please send information, news, and articles for the newsletter to the appropriate assistant editor (listed below) if one is specified and to Anne Walradt—newsletter@lsfwriters.com

Articles: Eileen Foley—EF_Foley@yahoo.com

Road Story: Karen Bostrom—bostromk@yahoo.com

Member Spotlight: Kiersten Krum—kksquard@gmail.com

Contests, Conferences, and Classes: Monica Liming—mjliming@comcast.net

Author Spotlight: Kathye Quick—KathyeQ@aol.com

President's Column



I'd like to start off this month's column by thanking the Sisters In Crime Chapter and their President, Roberta Rogow, for hosting the May meeting. Special thanks to members Daria Ludas and Chris Redding for arranging the speakers at that event. These ladies did an excellent job, and the speakers were both knowledgeable and interesting. And, let's face it, who wouldn't get a kick out of playing with all those weapons.

[Read More . . .](#)

"The purpose of a writer is to keep civilization from destroying itself."

Albert Camus

★Articles★

Click on Title to Access Article

President's Column

Crime X-Travaganza
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Next Month's Meeting

The next meeting of the Liberty States Fiction Writers is on June 12th at the Edison Public Library on Plainfield Avenue

Switching Boats in Mid- Stream: How to Stay Afloat in a Changing Publishing Environment

Jo Ann Ferguson

Switching Boats in Mid-Stream How to Stay Afloat in a Changing Publishing Environment

Every day brings news about how publishing is evolving. How does an author "stay afloat" when publishing houses are cutting staff, changing their guidelines, ending and adding lines? After over 25 years in the publishing business, Jo Ann has developed ways to keep getting publishing contracts, even during the lean times. She'll talk openly and honestly about the good, the bad, and the ugly of building and maintaining a career as well as offer steps on how to get your career back on track when it's run into a wall.

Jo Ann Ferguson



Award-winning author JoAnn Ferguson has a split writing personality. Jo Ann Ferguson launched the new Regency line at ImaJinn (where her next traditional Regency will be GENTLEMAN'S MASTER, the next book in her popular Regency mysteries) as well as being the author of best-selling historicals. J.A. Ferguson writes paranormals for ImaJinn (her next book is UNDER HER SPELL, released this spring). Jocelyn Kelley's most recent book is SEA WRAITH, released in November 2009. Jo Ann Brown novelized Thomas Kinkade's THE CHRISTMAS COTTAGE, a movie starring Peter O'Toole, and now also writes for Guideposts Books (her first title in the Patchwork Mysteries series, TIME TO SHARE, will be released Fall 2010). Her 80+ titles are also published by Tudor, Ballantine, Zebra, Harper, Warner, and Thorndike. Her books have been translated into almost a dozen languages and sold on every continent except Antarctica.

Roundtable Sessions

The **Roundtable Sessions** will be **The Skinny on Grammar/Punctuation and Critiques**. For the Critique Roundtable Session, please bring 10 (ten)

copies of 5 (five) Pages from the work you wish to discuss as well as any pitch you would like to try out. If you are a published author and would like to assist with the pitches and critique sessions, please contact Lois Winston, our Program Chair.

Networking and Snacks

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

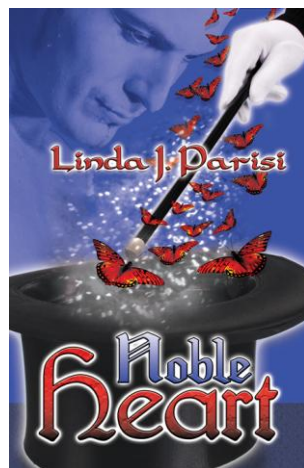
Author Spotlight

Joanna Aislinn



Joanna Aislinn's writing roots stretch back to her early teenage days. Life got in the way until ten years ago, when the story playing out in her head insisted she put it down on virtual paper. She's been writing and honing her craft ever since. **NO MATTER WHY** (The Wild Rose Press), Joanna's debut novel hit the virtual shelves on January 15, 2010. At present, she's busy revising its sequel and launching a spinoff, learning all she can about promo, building her web presence, and making time to work a day job and manage a home along with everything else! For more information, please visit www.joannaaislinn.com.

Linda Parisi



Linda J. Parisi found her calling when, as a scientist, she discovered romance. Her idea of the perfect hero is a cross between Frank Langella's Dracula and his Zorro—tall, dark, handsome, and untamable. Her heroines will never give up or give in, so the sparks continue to fly through her books until her characters reach their happy ending. The road might not be easy but the fun is in the travel. She's been a member of the Romance Writers of America since 1993 and is now a member of Liberty States Fiction Writers. During the day she's a research scientist and project manager for a diagnostic technologies company. But at night? At night, she gets to play with vampires.

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Meeting Review

Crime X- Travaganza

Crime X-Travaganza

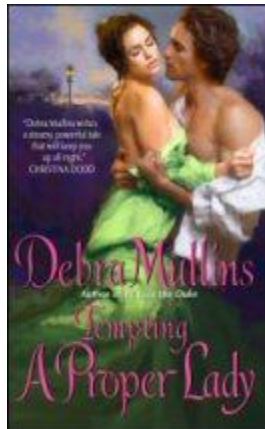
The Crime X-Travaganza was sponsored jointly by LSF Writers and Sisters-in-Crime. Members had an in-depth look at the functioning and weapons used by several different law enforcement and fire department personnel.

Guest speaker podcast info:

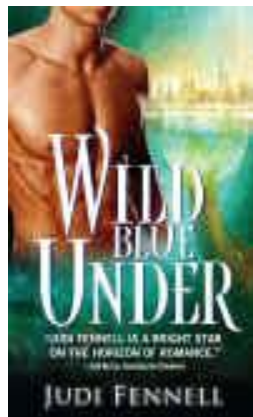
In light of the nature of the May workshop, it was not possible to have a podcast. However, please see the recap of the program in the Articles section and, also, click here to see additional pictures from the workshop (or cut and paste this link into your browser: Please note that we have been asked not to make these photos public, so please do not post or distribute these photos to non-members.

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Member News



Debra Mullins was featured on the Borders True Romance Blog.



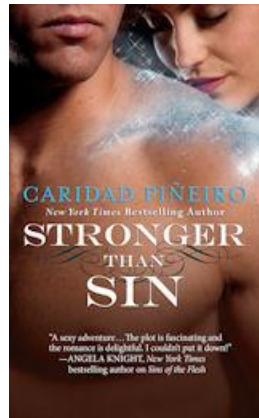
Judi Fennell's *Wild Blue Under* is a finalist in the Prism Awards, Light Paranormal. Winners will be announced at The Gathering at the FFP celebration at the RWA National Conference.



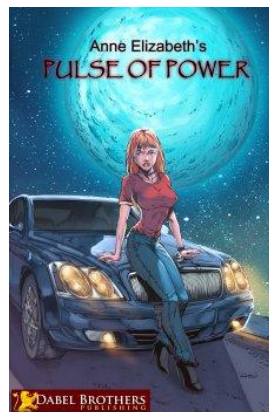
Kathy Kulig's *Damned and Desired* received 4.5 cherries and was Book of the Week at The Long and Short Reviews



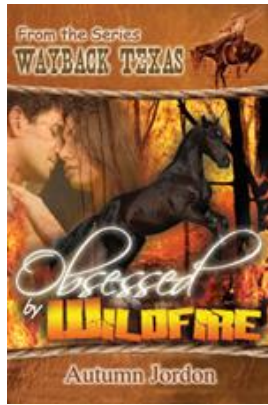
Patt Mihailoff will be doing a talk at the Clarendon Library (near Brooklyn College) on June 8th at 6 p.m.



Caridad Piñero just received the cover for her November 2010 release *STRONGER THAN SIN*. Caridad is also pleased to announce that she has accepted an offer from Carina Press for two Aztec-themed paranormal romances and an offer from Grand Central Publishing for two more books in the SINS paranormal romance series.



Anne Elizabeth was Author Reporter at the BEA for PW's Barbara Vey. Here's a link to the news: <http://blogs.publishersweekly.com/blogs/beyondherbook/> Anne also signed her graphic novel—*PULSE OF POWER*—and over five hundred promo pieces with LA Banks (for her Vampire Huntress comics). Both Anne and **LA Banks** debut in July with Dynamite Entertainment.



Autumn Jordan's *OBSESSED BY WILDFIRE* received 4.5 stars at The Romance Studio.

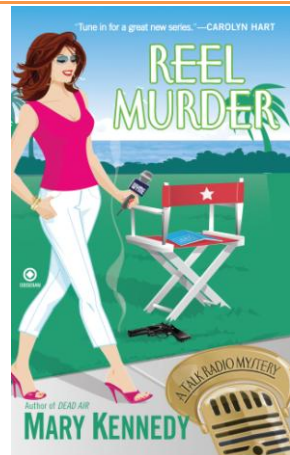


Penelope Marzec's *FIEND OF WHITE BUCK HALL* received a great review at Hot Gossip Hot Reviews.

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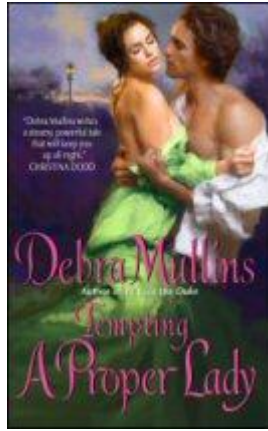
Member Releases

June Current Releases



REEL MURDER
by Mary Kennedy
ISBN To be Announced
Penguin Obsidian

Maggie visits a movie set and finds danger, romance, a dead body, and fifteen minutes of fame.



TEMPTING A PROPER LADY

by Debra Mullins

Avon Books

A Most Improper Alliance. Two years ago, dashing Captain Samuel Breedlove disappeared without a word. But he's resurfaced in London a wealthy man, only to discover his fiancée preparing to wed another. Now Samuel needs to restore his good name and expose a villain—and tempting, temptable Cilla seems an ideal accomplice. Priscilla Burke knows the marriage of her charge, Annabelle Bailey, to the Earl of Raventhorpe must be perfect. It would be madness for her even to consider doing anything that would mar this beautiful day and destroy her fledgling career as a wedding planner. Why then is she so drawn to this irresistible stranger who insists she help him sabotage the impending affair? But a proper lady's desire is nothing to toy with. And a man whose character has been questioned cannot allow himself to dream of happily ever after. This not-so-innocent seduction may have unforeseen consequences . . .



EVIL'S WITNESS

by Autumn Jordan

The Wild Rose Press

Elementary school nurse Stephanie Boyd's ordinary world changes forever when she and her children witness a blood bath. To escape the wrath of the Russian Mafia, she has no choice but to help the FBI uncover the Mafia's mole inside the U.S. Treasury. While on the run with the handsome agent who is willing to die for them, Stephanie learns the meaning of self-sacrifice and love. Agent John Dolton's only break in solving the case that cost him everything is a couple of kids and a beautiful widow. But keeping his witnesses safe seems impossible when their every move is foreseen by their enemy. Within weeks, Stephanie and her children soften the loner's heart, and John allows himself to let go of his all-consuming sorrow. This time John vows not to fail to protect the family he loves.

If you have an upcoming release, please send your title, cover, release date and short blurb to Caridad Piñeiro @ cpsromance@att.net so that we can include the release in the newsletter and on the website.

Member Spotlight

“Just Do It!”

by Stacey Wilk

The marketing people at Nike really had their acts together when they came up with that one. “Just Do It” is my absolute favorite slogan. I say it to myself and my children all day. (Sometimes I even say it to my husband!) Just Do It! Three simple words that say it all: stop talking about it—take action. Words that help me achieve my goals.

The phrase applies to every aspect of our lives. Writing—just do it. We all know books don’t get written without putting words on paper. How many people have you bumped into that say they want to be a writer, but never write a single word? A mother in my town just told me that the other day! I said to her, “If you want to be a writer, then write.” You can dream about writing bestselling novels, but if you don’t take action, actually do it, then being an author is nothing more than a passing thought. (When you’re done reading this—just do some writing!)

Just Do It applies to goal setting. Whip out a piece of paper and jot down your wishes, hopes, and dreams. (Go ahead. I’ll wait.) The list alone isn’t enough. You have to *do* something to accomplish those goals. Take the steps necessary to make your goals a reality.

Women nurture by nature. We take care of everything and everyone else first. That leaves little time for ourselves, and then add in the much needed time to write. Finding space to write among the “to do” list is a daunting task, I know. But you know what I say? Just Do It! You owe yourself those three little words. I promise you—no one will give you the power to just do it, but you. You’ll be glad you did.

Appropriately, *Just Do It* applies to exercising. (Exercise is not a four letter word!) As writers we spend a lot of time caught up in make believe worlds, happily of course. With imagination as our gift, as opposed to, let’s say—being a tri-athlete, (my hat goes off to those of you who are) our butts spend a lot of time in a chair.

I’m an avid exerciser. I walk, run, ride my bike, lift weights, and my favorite: yoga. I love it. Exercise gives me energy to keep up with my hectic life style. Working out offers the obvious health benefits, which are nothing to snicker at, and I look and feel better in my clothes. Exercise clears my head of white noise so I can be present for my family and, importantly, my writing. When my rapid thoughts are quiet, my creativity flows. I find myself putting words on paper and completing manuscripts. I’m doing it!

Maybe you already find the time for physical activity. Maybe you meditate daily. What’s on that bucket list of yours? Getting an agent? Signing with a bigger publisher? Finishing your first manuscript? Finding a good critique partner? Figure out what steps you need to take, research, learn your craft. Just Do It! I know you can.

Stacey Wilk has wanted to be a professional writer since she was seven. She writes suspense novels and speaks publicly about creative writing while

pursuing her publishing dreams. When she isn't up to her eyeballs in good books by her favorite authors or standing in various yoga poses, she's living life to its fullest with her husband and two children. Visit her blog, a novelist's pursuit through publishing, life, and the occasional dark corner, at staceywilk.blogspot.com



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Road Story

On the Rocky Road of “Writing” by Patt Mihailoff

It was a dark and stormy night—No! Actually it was early afternoon, and I was about thirteen years old and full of bored mischief. I remember I was in my room, and I picked up a pencil—number two yellow—and began to write on pages in my loose leaf notebook. For some reason I decided I wanted to write about love, (most likely because I'd just seen a 1940s noir type film starring some bouncy haired buxom beauty (skinny was a no-no then) and I figured “I can do that.”

Well, I did it. I wrote a story that got away from me, and before I knew it, there was mistaken identity, murder, and completely watered-down sex leaping off the pages. Half the words were misspelled, there was no such thing in my mind as POV, and forget formatting, but when I read it back, I felt that the story totally rocked. I was excited. The feeling lasted about two days before I was back to reading *Movie Mirror Magazine* and checking out boys that I would never be allowed to think about even dating until I was eighteen. I figured writing that story was a momentary flash in the pan.

I read all the time and—I'm sure I must have mentioned this somewhere along the line—I had fallen love with historical movies, having just seen *Dragonwyck* and *Forever Amber*. I was certain there had to be books with those particular themes, and I had to find them. When I was about twenty, my local librarian

asked what I liked to read and I told her. She searched that pre-data base card thingy, AKA the Dewey Decimal System, and then got lost in the long aisles of books for a good ten minutes. Finally she came back with *The Mistress of Mellyn* by Victoria Holt. It was printed forty years ago, so that should give you an indication about how long I have been in love with this particular genre.

I had always kept a journal or diary as it was known back in the day, but something deep inside me made me want to do more with writing. It was like one of those *no-see-ums* that you keep swatting but won't go away. I figured I at least had to try, and that's what I did.

There are a million stories I could tell you about my insane journey to what I consider my writing success of today, but one of my favorites is when I entered a short story contest in 1974 for a very popular magazine. I knew exactly *nothing* about formatting or proper writer's protocol, and typed my story on a Pre PC-Olivetti Underwood typewriter, on translucent (I kid you not) *onion paper*, single spaced with margins that were about a ¼ of an inch wide. Needless to say, I got a nice rejection letter, and if those people are alive today, they are most likely still laughing.

By the time I was reading my fellow writers' works and found out how talented they were, I couldn't help but wonder, "Why in the hell am I trying to do this?" There's so much talent out there and while my small contribution to the written word might only be appreciated by me and my loved ones, I do it because I love it.

Writing fills a void inside me and keeps my mind going as I try to put a new spin on old stories and ideas. I enjoy so much about being a writer and an author—like critique. I love it when five people listen to the same passage, and every one of them comes up with a different POV, idea, or scenario. It let's me see things through their eyes, (if I could only apply that to my own weak POV problems).

I remember when *True Confession Magazines* were taboo and read clandestinely, and we are now making good money writing them. Did you think that erotica would ever come from behind closed doors and absolutely lead a literary revolution? I certainly didn't, but here it is.

There is always something to be learned when traveling along the literary highway of life, and the best advice I can give is to read often and listen closely. There are only so many plotlines and, believe me, I have seen people put twists on them that made me want to sacrifice a goat to the Muses if only they had let me think of it first.

Do I get frustrated? You bet. While I rarely suffer from writer's block, I do undergo lapses of coherent ideas. That's when I have to go back and re-hash it all out once again.

Do I have a folder full of rejections? If only I had a single dollar for every one

I've gotten, I could buy a small island in the South Pacific, but that only gives me the push I need to keep going and try to make my writing better.

The road from your PC to an agent and/or publisher to actual fruition might be long and rocky, but stay focused and on course. I promise you it will pay off. Writing is like music, and sometimes a song comes along that you just have to dance to. The same goes for writing, when the idea hits you, **write it down**.

Patt Mihailoff is a sixteen year former New Yorker and the author of Four digital novels and one half of the **P.K. Eden** writing team, authors of FIREBRAND. In addition to fantasy romance, she has written and published mainstream fiction, erotica in a NY Times best selling author's anthology, romance and over a hundred short stories, and recently awarded Author of Year by the RWA New York Chapter.



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★This Month's Articles★

President's Column Gail Freeman



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.

There have been several issues discussed by the Board over the last month. I believe that we are narrowing down the street fairs that Liberty State will attend. It looks like we will get a booth at the Somerville, Red Bank, and Jamesburg fairs. We have heard good things about the event in Collingswood, but we are unsure if we would have enough authors and members to man that event. If you live in that area of the state and would be interested in participating, please let any Board member know.

Next on our agenda was the newsletter. Summer is fast approaching and with it there will be vacations, conferences, book deadlines, and the children home from school. As you can imagine, producing a full scale newsletter (even with all the help) is a time consuming job. We've been tossing around a few ideas on how to make the job easier and have come up with the idea of weekly bulletins. They will be easier to put together and will produce a faster read for our members. But fear not, we will not be cutting any of the columns that we currently print, just spreading them out over the month. It was also felt that some of the industry and marketing news (which will be included each week) would be timely in this format. Starting the third week in June, look for your first bulletin. As we stated when we first started LSF Writers, we are not afraid to try something different to see how it works. We know some things will be winners and some will be total flops. The Board has voted to give this format a try for the summer, and we will gauge how well it does. If successful (and the members are the only ones who can tell us that), we will continue the format into the future.

And speaking of the future, the Board is starting to put together guidelines for the end-of-year election. Motions, seconds and all those other "Robert's Rules of Order" things have not been finalized yet, but we have all agreed that we will do an electronic vote for the elections. Right now we are investigating the best way to do a secure election, and we'll keep you updated on our progress and let you know when nominations will open. As stated in our By-Laws, the elected term is two years. The positions are President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Program Director, and Membership Director. A member can run for any one position three times for a total of six years. In line with the election, each Board member is working on her job description to assist in the decision-making process. When done, this will be added to the Policies and Procedure Manual, which is still in the development stage.

Now, if all this talk of By-Laws and PPM has you confused, I'd like to mention that the Members Only section of the website has a wealth of information. If you get a chance, you should check it out. I know that you all agreed to the Honor Code when you joined or renewed but if you forgot what you agreed to, you can find in there as well as the By-Laws. The PPM is still missing in action, but once the job descriptions are done, we hope to put up a working model for everyone to see.

Of course, as with anything else, if you have a question, concern, or idea, each member of the Board is more than happy to hear from you and give you

the attention you deserve.

Gail

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Crime X- Travaganza Recap by Caridad Piñero



New York Times and USA Today bestselling paranormal and romantic suspense author Caridad Piñero wrote her first novel in the fifth grade when her teacher assigned a project—to write a book for a class lending library. Bitten by the writing bug, Caridad continued with her passion for the written word through high school, college, and law school. In 1999, Caridad's first novel was released and a decade later, Caridad is the author of over twenty novels and novellas. When not writing, Caridad is an attorney, wife, and mother to an aspiring writer and fashionista. Caridad's November 2009 release, SINS OF THE FLESH, is the first book in an exciting new paranormal suspense series from Grand Central Publishing. Look for STRONGER THAN SIN in October 2010. For more information on Caridad, please visit www.caridad.com or www.thecallingvampirenovels.com.

I'd like to start this recap of the May Crime X-Travaganza by thanking the Sisters In Crime Chapter and their President, Roberta Rogow, for hosting the May meeting and a very special thanks to members Daria Ludas and Chris Redding for arranging the speakers at that event. Also, many thanks to Kristin Gasser for some of the photos included in this recap. Many more photos are available at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/LSFWritersAnnouncements/photos/album/1762418476/pic/list>. You will need to login to Yahoogroups to see the photos.

First of all, I'd like to warn that this is a running list of those items of interest that were raised by the various individuals during the workshop. I hope you'll find some of the points useful.

The first presenter at the workshop was Dave Foelsh who is a Fire Marshall responsible for fire code compliance and arson investigations.



This is Fire Marshal Dave speaking with LSF Writer Members Chris Redding and Michele Richter. Fire Marshall Dave had the following information to impart to the group:

He started as a firefighter at the age of 16 and is also an EMT.

As a Fire Marshall he has jurisdiction only in non-private locations.

In the case of fire, 95% of people run to the door they came in so they can exit.

Vacant properties are popular locations for storing dangerous materials. Many were bought for speculation during this tough economy.

Dave looks for code violations in buildings with combustible products, etc. such as labs. He also checks fire exits.

All fire officials are responsible for investigations, and all fires must be documented.

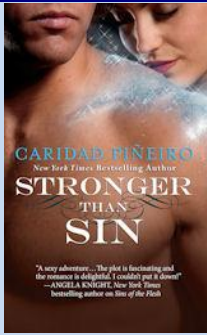
Fire Marshalls can call in the state Fire Marshall, but *must* call in cases of death or large losses of property.

To become certified to do basic fire investigation, you must attend a three hour lecture for basic investigation.

To be an arson investigator, you must take a three week class at the Police Academy.

Some counties have an Arson Task Force to investigate deaths or large loss of property.

The Task Forces have specialists or call in specialists, i.e. police, electrical, computer, etc.



Police do interrogations, but fire fighters get the dirty stuff. Task Force is called out to meet and discuss motive. Financial trouble? They find property owners and get them to the scene of the fire. They question them and look for evasiveness to decide where to go next. "Diggers" dig through fire. Photographers take pictures. Everything has to be documented, whether written or photographed, because of lawyers.

Google "Fire Case Study" to see sites that teach how to avoid or duck an arson prosecution.

Investigators go from least burned to most burned. Do that to not prejudge cause and origin of the fire. Can't make up your mind before reviewing the entire scene.

Investigators look for cuts in fence. Label address by Side A, B, C, etc. of building. "A" side is the main address for building. "B" is left-clockwise.

Will take pictures of all sides of the building as well as sketch before going into the area of least damage.

If it's a fatal fire, they will do this twice and measure everything for purposes of court proceeding.

First thing to look for—smoke demarcation line. It's a straight line all around the area. Heavy smoke is at the bottom. The line is created by soot and stuff all over the wall. Today, everything burns black due to oil-based and synthetic products. Natural products have a more grayish smoke.

"Put wet stuff on the red stuff" is how fire fighters describe what they do.

You can tell what is burning from the smell sometimes. Barns are very distinct smell and very visible at night. Can be seen from quite a distance away.

White and red triangles outside buildings are warning signs for fire fighters. R indicates that there is a roof truss. F indicates that there is a floor truss. Fire fighters have only about five to fifteen minutes before a truss support system fails. Truss supports are common in buildings erected in the last ten to fifteen years. Older homes are made with plaster and lathe. They take longer to burn. A modern home will burn to the ground in fifteen to thirty minutes because of the building truss structure. In an older home, each member carries the load while in a truss the entire truss carries the load. When it fails, the entire structure goes.



Members listening to Fire Marshall Dave

In a typical fire, firefighter goes to the firehouse. Chief goes straight to the scene. Windows are harder to break in new homes because of thermal paning. You can sometimes smell accelerants. Average conviction rate on arson is only 25% to 40% because if arson is done right, most

of the evidence is gone.

Arson dogs are very good at picking up smells.

Pour pattern is the pattern left by the accelerant.

Fire burns up and out. It will not go in another direction unless there is an accelerant.

Most arsonists start small (car/shed) and then work their way up. Juveniles start small and work up to larger buildings.

In a town's history, maybe one or two firefighters are arsonists.

Arsonists get high on setting fires or have a vendetta for setting the fire.

Neglected children set fires for attention. Typical pattern is to start at age 3 or 4 with fire play. At ten or twelve it starts getting more serious.

Today there are more arsons for hire, mostly for insurance fraud. Usually for financial reasons.

Investigators will look inside the body of the victim, normally the nose or throat, to look for singed or black throat. That means the victim was still breathing during the fire. This will be confirmed during an autopsy.

Crews will go inside at first even though they do not know if there is a person.

The hose team will handle the hose. The search team will search inside to find the fire.

The vent team will break windows and open holes in the roof to get rid of the smoke.

Firefighters will look for animals in the home. Firefighters often get bitten by dogs. Cats usually jump out of windows—very smart.

Firefighters sometimes search using thermal imaging cameras, such as at night in the woods in the case of a missing person. Normally a chief will not send firefighters if there is a threat. Will wait for police force. Some police forces have thermal imaging cameras. Hot shows up white on the cameras. Can see through walls to the fire behind the wall with the cameras. In older homes which have balloon construction, fire will travel from the basement to the roof because the walls are open from top to bottom. This is mostly in older Victorian homes.

Each fire house has two fire engines and one specialty vehicle, i.e. tanker or ladder truck. Also a brush truck for forest fires.

Investigators contact insurance companies when any large fire happens. Will provide report to the insurance company.

"Sharks" are insurance attorneys who tell owners "Sign paperwork and I'll take care of it. Get you money."

Turn Out Gear is what firemen wear. It consists of bunker gear, which is the pants and boots, suspenders and jacket, a hard hat that covers neck, ears and mask, helmet and gloves. It weights about twenty-five to thirty pounds, and an air tank adds another twenty-five pounds. Fire fighters are issued their gear by the town.

1 ¾ line hose is the most common because it is the easiest to handle. A fog nozzle is used to create pressure to suck smoke out of the house by pouring water into a room.

Fire fighters started wearing this full gear in the late sixties to early seventies.

Today, fires burn hotter—2000 to 3000 degrees because of what's burning. Used to be 1200-1600 degrees.

Cars don't normally explode as is seen in movies. Most cars have fuel shutoff, which goes off in front end collision. Older cars (1990s and earlier) are more likely to explode, but it will take a couple of minutes.

Firefighters have portable radios and the radio has an orange button for emergencies.

The button sends out an emergency alarm, and the radios have a designation for each firefighter.

Firefighters need to keep moving since the air tanks have alarms and, if they do not move for thirty seconds, the alarm will go off and get progressively louder until the pack loses power.

Air gauges for the packs are set on the shoulder so you can see them. They also have on/off switch to shut them off. If the firefighter hears an alarm go off, s/he will radio back where it is, and the radio operations man (not necessarily the chief) will call in a "PAR"—a check to see if all men are accounted for. A "RIC" team—FAST team—is to stand by and be ready to go in to get the missing man. If conscious, the firefighter says "Mayday" and will give his location to the crew/air left/info on being trapped, etc. If unconscious, team will look for him by sound near last known location.

A big fire is really, really loud.

Fire crews have HAZMAT people but will call in HAZMAT squad.

"Cop-o-meters". Police officers who run in and pass out.

If firefighters are going into labs they will check the MSDS sheets—material Safety Data Sheets and determine whether to call in HAZMAT.
A fire safety zone when there are hazardous materials may be as far as five miles away.
Bomb squad is part of the police department.

To incinerate a body it does not have to be too hot, but must be over 1000 degrees to do serious damage. Will do autopsy to check the throat to determine if victim was alive in the fire.

V Pattern: pointer to the fire. The point of the V is where the fire originated.

Drop Down: Something that melts and drops down.

Multiple V Patterns: If there is no rhyme or reason, flag goes up immediately that it was an arsonist setting multiple fires in multiple locations.

Fire Communication: Refers to there being a sensible connection between the location for the fire and the nature of the fire.

At the fire, the Fire Department has full jurisdiction over the scene. The scene must remain secure until the fire investigator does his review. This is done by either a police presence or by the Fire Department. If the scene is not secured, no way of proving what happened. If it is a large scene you may have multiple men patrolling around.

The investigator cannot delete any photos he takes of the fire scene because there is a photo log. Even a “misfire” needs to be kept.

Was that a lot of information to digest or what? But there is even more courtesy of Jamesburg Mayor Anthony Lamantia and Sergeant Menutti, a member of the Jamesburg SWAT Team, who provided information on various weapons and police procedure to the group.



Mayor Lamantia

Mayor Lamantia advised that any information you needed about a gun you could find out by using the magazine *GUN DIGEST*. He explained that every gun has its own distinct workings due to the bore of the weapon.

Shotguns have a primer in the middle, and it is hard to do ballistics on shotguns. Shotgun shells have different kinds of shot within the shells. Shotguns are good for about twenty-five to thirty yards only. There is not a lot of aiming necessary with a shot gun. SWAT does not use shotguns too often because the buckshot scatters.



Different kinds of shotguns

Police use either .38, .357 or 9 mm weapons. 9 mm weapons don't have a lot of knockdown so police are now using .40 or .45 caliber bullets in the weapons.

The mayor's pride and joy is this Lady Derringer hand gun. For qualifying, police officers have to shoot at 50 yards with a hand gun. They must do this twice a year to qualify. Kevlar vests will stop standard rounds. A .50 caliber gun will stop a car. A Kevlar vest with a plate will stop up a large caliber weapon, but you will still have blunt force trauma.



Sergeant Mennuti with a vest

Kevlar fibers lie flat, and you need to change them if they've been used. If the fibers are matted, they will no longer work properly. A Kevlar helmet can stop a .223 bullet (or so they say), but you will still have blunt force trauma from the impact of the bullet. Officers will also use Kevlar shields, but it is hard to carry them for extended periods of time or shoot with them.



Our own Cris Anson carrying one of the Kevlar shields.

Nomex uniforms and hoods are sometimes used when undercover and also used to protect against chemicals and fires.

Flash bangs are stun grenades used to enter a location more safely.

People set up booby traps for the police, so the police try to get background information on the people they are chasing. Police want to know if they are military or have weapons training..

Breacher has a ram and the second guy following the breacher will toss the flash bang and then the rest of the SWAT squad goes in. SWAT wears heavy protection and will toss the grenades in multiple rooms. Will not do this if children are present. The flash blinds you, and there is pressure in your ears from the explosion. Police train newbies by tossing flash bangs into a room where they are. Flash bangs can cause fires and if police know there is a meth lab, they will not use flash bangs. They don't even want to shoot their weapons if they don't have to in a meth lab.

Samples of SWAT team gear as well as 50 caliber sniper weapon.





Our own Rayna taking aim

Search warrant will be “No Knock” if there is danger. It will be a “knock” warrant if it is a small space. Police will announce themselves and wait a reasonable time for person to walk from the back to the front of the space.

If it’s a drug raid, police execute the search warrant and say “Everyone Down.”

If the area is barricaded or if there is a hostage, SWAT will use hand signals with throat mikes which pick up vibes in the throat and ear pieces for stealth.

“On the Stick”: When you are at the door. One Guy goes in front pointing a weapon. The other behind him with hand on his shoulder and weapon to the side.

“J Hook”: Go in left-right, left-right all the time.

SWAT was started by LAPD in the early sixties. SWAT was trained by the military. Used military movements adapted for urban environments. Now SWAT teams train military for fighting in urban environments.

SWAT stands for Special Weapons and Tactical. The current team is using SORT—Special Operations Reponse Team as it is more politically correct.

SWAT used digital camo which is harder to see. Grey/black for urban areas. Lighter colors for desert. The camo has little boxes which are hard to see as they break up the silhouette.

When SWAT goes in all get “contained.” All are on the floor and handcuffed. They then turn the scene over to someone else. SWAT merely detains. Detectives make the physical arrest and get info.

Some cop shows are realistic, but most aren’t. Good producers listen and get it right. They do have advisors on the movie sets for info.

Entry team goes into the building.

Perimeter team sets up points outside to catch runners and this team includes snipers.

Command post directs the action.

SWAT and snipers can use less than lethal force. Will use bean bags out of shotguns, tasers, stun grenades, rubber pellets, etc.

“Hornet’s Nest”: Rubber pellets fly out.

Entry Team = First squad = Ego. Won’t move or back down to another squad. “Flew you in for the big game.”

Perimeter Team—Sick-Lame-Lazy.

The ram weighs about seventy-five pounds, and the SWAT team runs with it.



Yellow ties are used to show that the chambers are clear

9/10ths of SWAT team are Type A personalities. Don’t want to do the boring stuff.

The HK handgun is used by SWAT. HK is for Hoechler Koch. It has a low recoil and was designed by the military. Can be fired underwater. Navy Seals carry it but they have a SOCOM version which is silencer-capable and has a flashlight underneath.

M4 is used by the military and special ops (was the M16). Some alter handles for better grip. It was a sight with hologram/lit reticule. Also has blue and white lighting. The M4 is not good for body armor. The M4 bullet will travel down through the body when it impacts.

The Beowulf has 50 caliber rounds and is hard to stop. Will drive body arm six inches into the body.

The AK47 is good up to 400-450 yards. Has more knockdown power than the M4 (good for 600 yards). The AK47 can fire in anything—mud, sand, etc.

The M40 is a sniper rifle. It is a bolt action rifle for greater accuracy and has a tight chamber

so the round doesn't move. Temperature, humidity and wind change trajectory. Maximum range is 1000 yards. First round will be different because with the second round the chamber is heated. Snipers work in two man teams. One has long scope who gets all the stats. A SWAT team as about 60 men. 12 are entry team. There are combat medics and a doctor. Not many women on the team. They don't come out for it although Beverly Hills has a female SWAT team member. Mostly it's a matter of physical strength. They train twice a month. One day is shooting and must have 90% accuracy. There is a physical fitness test twice a year.

Women are good at detail and make better detectives.



LSF Writers and Sister-in-Crime Members Investigate the Various Weapons

Typical calls for a SWAT team involve when people are barricaded with weapons or to keep them from harming themselves if they have a weapon. Hollow point bullets are made to explode at the tip. Expands and will not go traveling so they are safe in urban areas as they won't go through walls.

.223 TAP round—Tactical Application Police—will also be safe in those situations.

There are very many different kinds of gunpowder, but they smell the same. Black powder smells like sulfur, and gun powder kind of like a firecracker.

Supervisor on the scene will determine when to call in the SWAT team.

“Hand over a bag of shit”: Turning case over to SWAT team to handle. Prosecutor and legal team will tell them what to do and when and usually when nothing else can be done.

I hope you enjoyed this recap of the Crime X-Travaganza and all the photos.

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You Are What You Write by Marykate Schweiger, w.a. M. Kate Quinn

You Are What You Write by Marykate Schweiger, w.a. M. Kate Quinn

Don't get me wrong. If your story is about a nuclear physicist, it doesn't mean you must have hands-on experience working with the properties of radiation and nuclear reactors. That's what research is for. But, what you must know at a gut level is who your physicist is as a person and what makes him tick. His foibles must be believable, but, more importantly, vivid enough to conjure feeling in your reader. If your character's afraid of dying or mourns the loss of



Born to a feisty Italian mother and a gentle blue-eyed Irishman, M. Kate Quinn was given the name "Marykate," inspired by Maureen O'Hara's character in the movie, The Quiet Man, an old-time favorite love story that co-starred John Wayne. With a grandmother Catherine and an Aunt Mary the name was an obvious choice. I've been writing stories all my life. There's an old Macy's box in my attic filled with my writings from childhood, now smudgy-looking pages produced on my portable Olivetti Underwood typewriter, an eighth-grade gift from my Grandmother Catherine. I am a recent First Place winner of a short story contest sponsored by Reader's Digest Magazine and write a column entitled "Boomer Humor" that appears monthly in my neighborhood newspaper. My husband and I are our own love story. We have a slap-happy middle-aged second marriage with a combined total of six grown children, one delightful granddaughter, another precious little baby on the way and one ridiculously spoiled, amazingly handsome cat named Sammy. Do visit my website at www.mkatequinn.com and please stop by my blog at www.MKateQuinn@blogspot.com

love, you better know in your deepest self what that feels like. Even if you yourself are, say, not necessarily afraid of dying, you can conjure the same emotion by relating to a fear you have known. Breathe your personal experience into your character and then he will become real.

This is a fundamental strategy for writers, and it's covered in many a manual. But sometimes we get so wrapped up in making sure we include the mechanical parts of our stories that the humanity can get shoved aside. So, what could happen is that you've got the arc, the black moment's a stunner, the hooks are strategically placed, but the readers don't care enough because they don't love the guy experiencing it all.

To me, one of the best examples is the *Velveteen Rabbit*, the 1922 children's book written by a nineteen-year-old, Margery Williams. We all know the story. A stuffed toy rabbit witnesses actual bunnies romping in the woods and yearns to be real. He becomes real through the love he shares with his owner, a little boy that develops scarlet fever, coupled by suffering the loss of their inevitable separation.

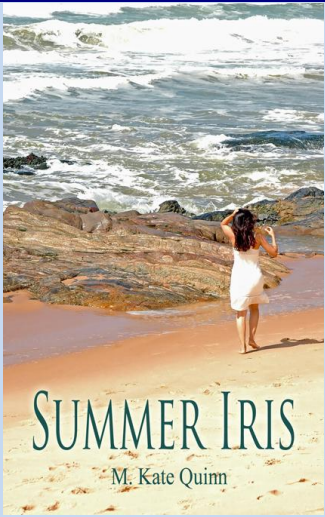
I'm going to guess the author never aspired to being a rabbit, and I'll bet romping around the woods on all fours was probably not on her to-do list. But, in reading a bit about her, I learned that she lost her beloved father when she was only seven years old. I'd venture to say her own experiences with love and loss are what make her story so vivid that eighty-eight years later we're all still enjoying it.

Perhaps you've participated in those writer's exercises where you itemize your characters' physicality like jotting a shopping list. You build your people characteristic by characteristic, choosing tall or short, fat or thin, old or young, blonde or brunette. But the same way flour and water and yeast don't make bread unless you blend them into dough and knead it with your own two hands, these features don't make people with enough dimension to exist within the pages of a novel.

It's not easy to accomplish the rounding out of our characters, but as writers we must flow in a continuous current of learning. I learn best by observation. And, there is no truer adage than the one that says "It is not what we say but what we do." While I was dating, I remember someone once offering advice about meeting Mr. Right. She said to watch a man's attitude around children, animals, and the elderly. How does he act around his mother? Have you ever seen him untangle a string of Christmas lights? What's he like in rush-hour traffic? These are good points to ponder when in the dating realm, but they are good when creating characters, as well.

Having a great story idea is essential, and executing the labyrinth of events that must occur requires practiced skill. These are what make noteworthy tales that are long-remembered. Infusing your characters with red-blooded personas is what makes them unforgettable.

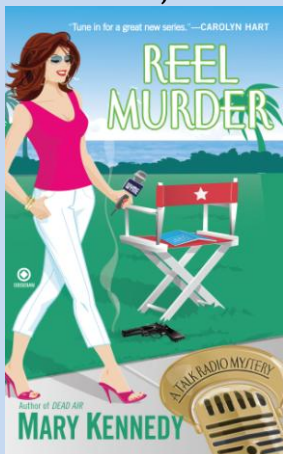
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NUTS by Mary Kennedy



Mary Kennedy is a licensed psychologist in private practice and the author of The Talk Radio Mysteries. REEL MURDER will be released on June 1, 2010.



NUTS by Mary Kennedy

NUTS can make a writer nuts.

Dr. Oz calls them NUTS. They're the "nagging, unfinished tasks" that nibble at the edge of our consciousness, interfere with our thought processes, and chisel away at our creativity. They're the racing thoughts that keep us awake at night, and dog us throughout our busy day.

Our thoughts scramble with endless to-do lists, and we can't focus on any one thing. Shrinks call them "intrusive thoughts," and we're all prone to them.

I think that writers are especially vulnerable to NUTS because there is something intrinsically "unfinished" about the work of a novelist. Stop for a moment and ask yourself, "What is on your writing to-do list this very moment?" Do you feel yourself pulled in a dozen different directions? Do you wonder if you should be updating your website, doing a blog to promote your upcoming release, writing some snappy promo material to hand out at a conference, developing a new workshop? And, oh, yeah, how's that synopsis coming? See what I mean? It's endless.

I'm fortunate to work with quite a few creative people in my psychology practice, and here are a few strategies that might help.

- 1) Prioritize. Do first things first. The blog is due tomorrow; the website can wait till next week. You need to send in that conference proposal immediately; the deadline is midnight. And returning an e-mail from an agent or editor? That should be at the top of the list.
- 2) Make lists. Even if you don't accomplish everything on them, you'll feel a sense of accomplishment at the end of the day as you check off various items.
- 3) Do the toughest, most unpleasant thing first every day. In my case, it means writing a synopsis; your "most dreaded" task might be different.

4) Break up large, unmanageable goals into chunks. If I can't get the synopsis done this week-end, I can at least do a "quick-and-dirty" narrative, hitting the key plot points.

5) Build in some fun time to relax and re-charge the batteries. This is probably the hardest thing for a Type A person to do. Down time isn't a waste of time. It's a necessity. Otherwise, the well will run dry.

6) Learn two or three relaxation techniques, and pick the one you like the best. I teach my clients deep breathing, creative visualization, thought-stopping progressive muscle relaxation, and a counting technique. At first, they resist the idea as gimmicky. But they eventually choose one that works, and their sleep improves dramatically. Try it! Make good sleep a priority in your life. I guarantee your productivity will soar and your general sense of well-being will improve.

With these simple strategies, you can banish those annoying thoughts and be a more productive, happier writer.

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When I Write Crap, Stuff Happens by Autumn Jordon



*2009 Golden Heart® Finalist
Dianne Gerber, writing as
Autumn Jordon, lives with her
husband along the
Appalachian Mountains of NE
PA. When not writing,
reading, tweeting, posting to
Facebook and Myspace, or
blogging at her own blog and*

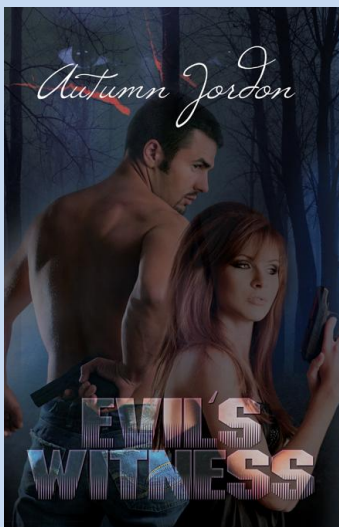
When I Write Crap, Stuff Happens by Autumn Jordon

If you've visited my blog <http://www.autumnjordonsnotes.blogspot.com>, you know I start each post with Cursor, Cursor, Cursor... Some weeks only one or two Cursors are typed. The word has become my Pavlovian stimuli to write crap. And from that crap sprout ideas like seedlings from fertile soil. Many of you are thinking that I'm talking about free writing, and you're right. I first learned about free writing from my English professor. At the beginning of the semester, she instructed the class to take out a pen (no pencils) and paper and to look at the person seated to our right. On the count of three, we were told to begin writing everything that came into our minds. Everything.

My first thoughts were to describe the person physically, but within a few lines my writing went in a different direction. I wrote about the conversation the woman and I just had after introducing ourselves. We had similar circumstances in our jobs that had triggered us to return to the classroom.

From there, I went on to list reasons why people returned to school and what challenges people with a job, home, and family had to face in order to obtain a degree. Then I wrote about how they might overcome those obstacles, how the lives of their family might improve, and how their decision to return to

THE Ruby-Slippered Sisterhood and The Pink Fuzzy Slippered Writers, she enjoys hiking, gardening, golfing, traveling, playing with her grandchildren, or just tossing a ball around the back yard with her Irish Setter. Her first release, OBSESSED BY WILDFIRE, came out from The Wild Rose Press on January 27, 2010, and her Golden Heart® book, EVIL'S WITNESS releases on June 18, 2010—also from The Wild Rose Press.



school could inspire someone else.

I'm sure you can see from the above example that a simple cue such as looking at a person and allowing your mind to wander down an off-beaten path can lead to some interesting subject matter that can and will open a lively discussion.

As authors, we all know name recognition plays a huge factor in the sale of books. Today is the age of the social networking through the world-wide web. People like to cyber-surf and read interesting material on twitter, Facebook, and blogs. Material that resonates with them. Doing all the networking, plus writing stories, whether shorts or full length novels, can put an author on overload. Free writing can help

Here are some hints I've found to work for me and to get you started.

1. Pick the stimuli that you will always use to start the process. The catalyst can be a song, a rejection letter hanging on the wall, or it could be a typed word like my *cursor*.
2. Keep a list of ideas/subject matter. Even if you might not have a need for it immediately, write it down.
3. Write as if no one will ever read the crap.
4. Allow your mind to wander freely.
5. Just write crap.

Now as an exercise: Write for five minutes, starting with the object or person that sits in front of you right now.

Once you're done, you'll have plenty of subject matter to expand on. Guaranteed.

Have fun!

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★This Month's New and Noteworthy★

★New and Noteworthy

Contests

Publishing News★

Click on Title to Access Article

Target to start selling Kindle

Amazon.com Announces First Quarter Sales up 46% to \$7.13 Billion

Author Solutions in Deal with Kobo

Songwriters and Authors Unite to Protect Termination Rights

Google Working on Tablet with Verizon

Walmart Selling Ipad Later This Year

★Current Bestsellers★

Click on Name to Access List

Booksense Indie Bestsellers

NY Times Bestsellers

Publishers Weekly

USA Today Bestsellers

Washington Post

Bestsellers

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The Chelsea Awards for Short Fiction—June 15

The literary journal *Chelsea* awards \$1,000 and publication for a work of fiction, not to exceed 30 typed pages, or about 7,500 words. The editors welcome both traditional and experimental fiction. Mail entries to: Chelsea Awards Competition, PO Box 773, Cooper Station, New York, NY 10276-0773. \$15.00 entry fee. [Click here for more info.](#)

New Millennium Writings

Deadline: June 17, 2010 accepting submissions for our Thirtieth Consecutive **Awards for Fiction, Poetry, and Nonfiction.**

Writing competition winners will be published in NMW and on the website.

<http://www.newmillenniumwritings.com/awards.php>

Glimmer Train—Month of June

The category will be open to submissions for one full month, from the first day through midnight (Pacific time) of the last day of the month. (Exception: The December Fiction Open closes Jan. 2 each year.) Results will be posted at www.glimmertrain.org. **Reading fee:** \$20 per story. **Prizes:** 1st place wins \$2000, publication in *Glimmer Train Stories*, and 20 copies of that issue. 2nd-place: \$1000, 3rd-place: \$600. Open to all writers, all themes. Word count range: 2,00—20,000. (Don't worry: A great 2,000 word story *can* compete against a great 20,000 word story. It's the story that counts.) <http://www.glimmertrain.com/fictionopen.html>

Put Your Heart in a Book

Sponsored Colorado Romance Writers

Deadline: June 15, 2010 (Electronic entries only) **Fee:** \$20-30

What to enter: First two chapters and a one to five-page synopsis (35 pages total max)

Open to: Published and unpublished authors

Final Judges: Agent/editor

To find out more, or to get the rules and an entry form, go to

www.nwhrwa.com

Indiana's Golden Opportunity 2010 **Deadline:** July 1, 2010 (Electronic entries only) **Fee:** \$25

Sponsored by: Indianan Romance Writers of America

What to enter: Beginning of story and synopsis (35 pages total max)

Open to: Published and unpublished authors

Final Judges: Editors and agents

To find out more, or to get the rules and an entry form, go to

www.indianarwa.com

The Heart of Excellence Readers' Choice Award for published authors

Sponsor: Ancient City Romance Authors

Fee: \$15.00

Deadline: Entries postmarked by July 5, 2010

Eligibility: Open to RWA members with the first print novels with first print copyright of January 1, 2009—December 31, 2009.

Entry: Include 3 signed copies of each entry. (Book length, at least 50K, e-books are accepted in bound, hard copy.)

Categories: Contemporary Single Title Romance, Erotic Romance, Historical (includes Regency) Romance, Inspirational/Inspirational/WBR, Paranormal Romance (includes fantasy, time-travel, futuristic), Romantic Suspense, Short & Long Series Contemporary Romance, Strong Romantic Elements

Judges: Romance Readers

Final Judges: Booksellers, Librarians, Romance Readers

Top Prize: 1st Place winners in each category will receive the Heart of Excellence trophy and a winner's graphic to include on their web site. 2nd and 3rd Place winners will receive a certificate and a graphic for their web site. Announcement of winners will be sent to RWR

FMI see web site: [_www.acrarwa.www_ \(http://www.acrarwa.org/\)](http://www.acrarwa.org/)

New Writers L. Ron Hubbard's Writer's of the Future Contest

The Contest has four quarters, beginning on October 1, January 1, April 1 and July 1. The year will end on September 30. To be eligible for judging in its quarter, an entry must be postmarked no later than midnight on the last day of the quarter. No entry fee is required, and all rights in the story remain the property of the author. All types of science fiction, fantasy and dark fantasy are welcome. PRIZES EVERY THREE MONTHS: \$1,000, \$750, \$500, Annual Grand prize \$5,000 Additional

<http://www.writersofthefuture.com/rules.htm>

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

THE NONFICTION BOOK PROPOSAL PACKAGE

Mon., June 7, 2010—Fri. June 25, 2010

It's long, it's exhausting and it's not for the faint-of-heart. In today's tough market, your book proposal will make or break your book. Get it right, you may be in. Get it wrong, and the odds are overwhelmingly against you.

Here's a harsh and simple reality of the publishing industry—no one is sitting there waiting to publish your book. Book sales are down, print runs are smaller, numbers of new books added to the shelves are dwindling.

But, there's always room for a standout, no matter what the market is doing. It's up to you to be that standout. *Plus, the book market loves nonfiction!* To be a standout though, you have to get noticed—by an agent, by an editor. And in nonfiction, that opportunity comes through your book proposal. It's your chance to wow them, to blow off their literary socks.

Show 'em what you've got! Come learn how.

- Taught by Multi-pubbed Author and Instructor Dianne Drake: Award-winning author of 25 novels, including 72 foreign releases (under the pen name Dianne Drake).
- Nonfiction (under the pen names of JJ Despain & Dilyn Holmes)

More than 500 articles published in such magazines as *Women's Day*, *Ladies' Home Journal*, *Family Circle*, *Better Homes & Gardens*, *Parents*, *Parenting* and others. In addition, author of seven nonfiction books, including Doubleday Bookclub Featured Alternate and an Antiques Roadshow companion book.

Education: University instructor, online workshop instructor, and frequent guest on nationally syndicated radio shows, as well as various television programs, including Discovery Channel's *Hometime*.

To register or for more information: www.beginningwriterworkshops.com

June 7—21, 2010

Airing Dirty Laundry—Use Family Stories, Eavesdropping, and Cable TV to Create Writing Income

Instructor: Marilyn Pruett

CLASS DESCRIPTION: “Airing Dirty Laundry” offers information and tips on how to create a source of outside income by writing short stories for the confessions and romance magazines. This two-week workshop is geared for writers who want extra income while waiting to sell their first book, are between royalty checks, or simply want an extra income stream. This course takes students step by step through writing a confession. It begins with learning the market, developing hooks and compelling story lines, and structuring a story properly. By the end of the course, students should have a story ready for submission. Additionally, participants will be given the opportunity to submit the first few pages of a story they start during the class and have the pages critiqued by published writers. Two stories will be selected toward the end of the class to receive a full critique.

INSTRUCTOR BIO: Marilyn Pruett has sold over thirty stories and a half-dozen short feature articles to the confessions and romance magazines. She has also sold to an e-zine called Chick Lit Review and an anthology titled, appropriately enough, I Confess. She appears in both the 2008 and 2009 Bylines Writers' Desk Calendar and her article “Short Shorts—Not Just a Fashion Statement” was featured on the Writing for Dollars website. In November 2008 she took the NaNoWriMo challenge and wrote 50,000 words on a book she started way too many years ago. When Silhouette Special Edition announced an online pitch contest several months later, she hunkered down, finished the book, and submitted a synopsis to the contest. One of eleven finalists, she received a request for her full manuscript, putting her a tiny step closer to the dream of being published in novel format. The book was ultimately rejected but is awaiting revision and submission to a different line. Marilyn is a member of Heart of Dixie RWA and serves RWA on both the local and national levels. A founding member of The Writing Playground, a website for aspiring writers (www.writingplayground.com), she lives in her empty nest in north Alabama and dotes on her granddaughter.

Cost: \$20 - Submit the payment via Paypal below or mail to the address listed. All payments for a workshop **must** be received by the registration deadline—**June 5th**. Please email the [Online Class Coordinator](#) with questions.

**Designed to Sell... How to Enhance Your Writing's Curb Appeal
Presented by the Grammar Divas**

June 7, 2010 - June 27, 2010

Cost: \$15 for Passionate Ink Members, \$20 for non-members

More Information: workshopchair@passionateink.org

In today's buyer's market, anything you can do to enhance your manuscript's appeal puts you one step ahead of everyone else trying to sell. By taking a look at your writing with a fresh eye, you'll discover ways to make the most of your writing's appearance, readability, and impact. The Grammar Divas (an English teacher and a professional copywriter) share episodes of popular writing improvement shows such as Dream Words, This Old Sentence, Extreme Makeover: Paragraph Edition, Trading Spaces, Fun Shui, and Designed to Sell. You leave the workshop with decorating ideas, remodeling projects, and prose improvements that can make your manuscript appealing to a potential buyer... an editor!

<http://www.savvyauthors.com/workshops.cfm>

Death Scene Investigation

When: June 7—25, 2010 Fee: \$15-20

Sponsored by: NEORWA

Presented by: Phyllis Middleton

To find out more go to www.neorwa.com

**The Lessons of FIREFLY: Learning from the Works of Joss Whedon
with Jacqui Jacoby**

June 14 to July 10, 2010

Enrollment Information at <http://www.occrrwa.org/onlineclassJune10.html>

COST: \$20 for OCC members, \$30 for non-members

If you have specific questions, email occrrwaonlineclass@yahoo.com

Although Joss Whedon's television show FIREFLY only aired through the fall months of 2002, it has continued to generate followers through word of mouth, DVD sales, and an inexhaustible amount of discussion both at conferences and online in writing loops. FIREFLY, created by the Rod Serling of our generation, was a masterpiece of writing. Each of its thirteen episodes taught character development, dialogue, and plotting techniques. Its motion picture sequel, SERENITY, not only touched on these subjects but added relationships, loyalties, and loss to its repertoire. In this workshop, Ms. Jacoby will reveal the lessons of FIREFLY. By using class participation and examples from the episodes, she will translate with words what Mr. Whedon was teaching us on screen.

Enrollment Information at <http://www.occrrwa.org/onlineclassJune10.html>

COST: \$20 for OCC members, \$30 for non-members

<http://www.occrrwa.org/onlineclasses.html>.

Gotham Writers' Workshop

Teaching more than 7,000 students a year, Gotham is the leading creative writing school in NYC and the United States. New workshops begin frequently Online and in New York City.

Online <http://www.writingclasses.com/CourseSchedule/index.php/type/O>

NYC <http://www.writingclasses.com/CourseSchedule/index.php/type/L>

**Pitch Perfect Practice Class (just in time for RWA National)
Class takes place June 14-27, 2010**

\$15 BDRWA members/\$20 non-members

Instructor: Kerri Nelson

Course Description: Want to practice your pitch for an upcoming pitch session to an agent or editor? Need help refining your pitch to include in a query letter? Well, practice makes perfect! Sign on for this handy two week pitch practice workshop, taught by multi-published romantic suspense author, Kerri Nelson. Over the past five years, Kerri has pitched more than thirty different books in every imaginable genre (from erotica to young adult) to multiple agents and editors with a tremendous success rate for follow-up requests for both partial and full manuscripts. She has sold eight of those books in just one year after perfecting her pitch process! In this intensive two week refresher course, Kerri offers up the secrets to nailing your pitch, how to score a home run with editors, and how not to stop short of getting the results you want! In addition, Kerri has been contracted to publish eight books with four different publishers in multiple genres. She continues to pitch both live and online to agents and editors on a monthly basis and has received requests for nearly one hundred percent of her pitches! Check out her website at: www.kerrinelson.com

For more info: www.bdrwa.com click on online classes or contact mrsgodiva@comcast.net

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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Conferences

Philadelphia Writers' Conference: Fri, 6/11/2010—Sun, 6/13/2010

Categories: Children's, Fiction, Marketing, Mystery, Nonfiction, Plays, Poetry, Screenwriting

Location: Holiday Inn, Independence Mall, Fourth and Arch Street, Philadelphia, North East, PA 19106

Times: 9:30 am—evening

Admission Fees: After April 15 and walk-in registration: Six workshops + features \$225

Buffet (Friday, June 11) \$40

Non-conferee guests \$40

Banquet (Saturday, June 12) \$40

Non-conferee guests \$40

Description: "The Philadelphia Writers' Conference, Inc. is a non-profit organization whose purpose is to bring writers together for instruction, counsel, fellowship and the exchange of ideas." - bylaws: 1949-present
The PWC offers three days of workshop, panels, events and community.

Keynote: Jeff Zaslow shares Lessons from "The Last Lecture."

<http://www.pwcwriters.org/>

The 2010 LIRW Luncheon

June 11, 2010

**Special Guest Speaker—Steven Zacharius, President
Kensington Books**

So far..... here is our roster of editors/agents attending:

GUEST AGENTS

Stephany Evans -- FinePrint Literary Management

Heather Evans -- FinePrint Literary Management

Suzie Townsend -- FinePrint Literary Management

Jennifer Didik -- Loretta Barrett Books, Inc.

Amy Boggs -- Donald Maass Literary Agency

GUEST EDITORS

Alicia Condon -- Editorial Director Brava

Stacy Boyd -- Editor, Feature & Custom Publishing, Harlequin Magazines Inc.

Latoya C. Smith -- Assistant Editor, Grand Central Publishing

Linda Ingmanson -- Editor, Samhain Publishing

Please keep checking the LIRW webpage to get the latest updates to this list! Plan now to join us at our lovely new location: The Inn at Fox Hollow (which has sleeping rooms available if you wish to spend the night!)

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

VALLEY FORGE Romance Writers—June 12

“Show, Don’t Tell” Workshop with Anne Walradt

This workshop deals with the code words “show, don’t tell,” which are used by critiquers (and editors) to explain why certain scenes don’t grab the reader.

The problem is, of course, that this phrase doesn’t explain itself, doesn’t show the writer what the critiquer means. This workshop explains what showing is, why it’s used, when it’s used, gives many examples of how to do it, and illustrates the pitfalls along the way. Scene and sequel will also be presented with discussion on how they relate to pacing and when showing and telling work best in those sections

[Greater Plymouth Township Community Center](#)

2910 Jolly Road, Plymouth Meeting, PA

CAPITAL REGION Romance Writers Conference—June 12

Speakers Jenna Peterson and Caridad Piñeiro

Registration includes Friday night reception, continental breakfast and buffet lunch on Saturday, all four workshops, handouts, and door prizes. Also included is editor/agent appointments and admission to Saturday's book signing/book sale event. Please go [here](#) for more registration information.

Accommodations: This year's event will be at the beautiful [Hilton Garden Inn](#), located in Troy, New York. Overnight accommodations are \$99/night as long as you reserve by May 12, 2010. Use code CRRRC when making your reservation.

ApolloCon

Houston, Texas

June 25-27

Houston's Science Fiction, Fantasy and Horror Conference. Presented by the Houston Science Fiction Association (HSFA). A single event for fans of speculative and imaginative fiction of all kinds, including literary, media, and interactive. Combining interesting and informative programming on literary, media, science and culture topics, networking opportunities for clubs and individual fans, art exhibits, and sales of books and other SF/F/H items.

<http://www.apollocon.org/>

Society of Children's Book Writers & Illustrators (SCBWI)

The 39th Annual Summer Conference

July 30-Aug 2, 2010

Los Angeles, CA

<http://www.scbwi.org/Conference.aspx?Con=6>

THRILLERFEST V

July 7—10

Grand Hyatt, New York City, New York

Thrillerfest has several different packages and tracks for aspiring and published authors. Please visit the website at

<http://www.thrillerwriters.org/thrillerfest/> for additional details.

RWA National Conference

July 28-31, Orlando, FL

Registration for RWA's 30th Annual Conference is now open. RWA members who register by May 19 pay the \$425 early member registration fee. Visit www.rwa.org to register online, to learn more about the conference, or for hotel information. Please consult the [Conferences & Events section](#) of the RWA site first before contacting RWA (conference@rwa.org or 832-717-5200, Ext. 128).

The Beau Monde Conference 2010—A Regency Affair

Keynote Speaker—Gaelen Foley

Where: Walt Disney World Swan & Dolphin Resort, Orlando, FL

When: July 28, 2010

What: Breakfast, Regency-specific workshops, Lunch, More Regency-specific workshops, Soiree

Workshops:

- Teaching the Regency Romance
- Adapting Modern Themes for the Historical Novel
- Life of Fallen Lady
- There Is Life After Sexy (Places to publish your Sweet Regency)\
- Servants
- How Clothes Worked

Soiree: Experience the Beau Monde's version of a *Regency Ball!* Join us for an evening of *desserts, spirits (Cash Bar), and dancing.* An expert *Dance Master* will "call" the steps for period dances while musicians play in the background. It's all in good fun and no one minds if you miss a step or two! If

dancing is not to your taste, how about a *game of Vingt-un* or *Whist*? Instruction booklets, chocolate coins and card decks will be available for those who wish for more "rakish" pursuits. Have *Carte Blanche*? In the background, our *Silent Auction* will offer the chance to bid on research books and other items. (Regency dress is optional, but not required!)

Cost:

Conference including Soiree

Early Bird (before June 15, 2010)

Member \$150.00

Non-Member \$170.00

Regular (after June 15, 2010)

Member \$165.00

Non-Member \$185.00

Soiree Only

Member \$50.00

Non-Member \$65.00

Registration: www.thebeaumonde.com/conference

Registration Deadline: July 02, 2010

International Women's Writing Guild (IWWG)

July 30 to August 6, 2010

Brown University, Providence, RI

The International Women's Writing Guild (IWWG) will hold its annual "*Remember the Magic*" writing conference at Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island, July 30th to August 6th 2010. Open to all women regardless of writing experience or publishing credentials. More than 50 workshops are scheduled encompassing fiction, non-fiction, memoir, poetry, monologue, and screenwriting, as well as six daily manuscript critique sessions, for writers at all stages of development. In keeping with a long-standing tradition, workshop leaders share accommodations, meals, classes, and nightly readings alongside attendees. Conference participants can register to attend for a weekend, five days, or the entire seven days. Commuters welcome. **Anne Frazier Walradt**, a founder of LSFW, will lead a workshop entitled "Writing Down the FunnyBones," on infusing your writing with humor. Other members leading workshops include **Zita Christian** ("The Key to Genre Fiction") and **Paula Scardamalia** ("Divining Your Muse"). For more information on the IWWG and the "*Remember the Magic*" conference or to register, visit www.iwwg.org.

ArmadilloCon

Austin, Texas

August 27-29

The ArmadilloCon Writers' Workshop has become a major event for aspiring SF/F writers. On the Friday of the convention, you will have the opportunity to have your work critiqued by major pro editors and writers. Breakout sessions will cover craft, markets, the dos and don'ts of preparing your work for professional publication, and more. Discussions range from the basics of grammar and style to plot, theme, character, and setting. You will get an in-depth critique of your work from the teachers in your group as well as from your peers. This roundtable style critique session is invaluable for learning

what works, what doesn't, and how to edit your work.
<http://www.armadillocon.org/>

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

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Promo Opportunities

RomanceUniversity.org is dedicated to helping writers establish and advance their careers, introducing readers to a variety of authors, and delving into the ever-inscrutable male mind. It's the sassy brainchild of ADRIENNE GIORDANO, KELSEY BROWNING, and TRACEY DEVLIN. RU currently is taking applications for the position of junior faculty member. Get deets and apply here: <http://bit.ly/aTn8kj>

Please note that LSFW does not endorse any of these promotional opportunities and asks that you check the fine print regarding the conference and also confirm the deadlines in question. Thank you.

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Editor/Agent News

Riverhead executive editor **Sean McDonald** will join Farrar, Straus as executive editor and director of paperback publishing.

At Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, **Rux Martin** has been promoted to senior executive editor.

At Harper Business, **Matt Inman** has been promoted to associate editor.

Sarah Knight will join the Simon & Schuster adult trade imprint on May 24 as a senior editor, acquiring both fiction and nonfiction. She was most recently an editor at Shaye Areheart Books.

Marissa Walsh has joined FinePrint Literary Management as a literary agent, focusing on children's picture books, middle-grade and YA, along with pop culture, humor, narrative non-fiction, and memoir.

At Simon & Schuster Children's **Alexandra Penfold** has been promoted to editor, and **Julia Maguire**, **Navah Wolfe** and **Lydia Frost** have all moved up to assistant editor, while **Kimberly Boyer** is now assistant editor of Little Simon and **Jessica Echeverria** is assistant editor at Simon Spotlight.

Amanda Patten has joined Quirk Packaging as editor.

At Random House Children's, **Geof Smith** has been promoted to executive editor; **Christy Webster** has been promoted to associate editor; and **Chelsea Eberly** has been promoted to assistant editor.

At Other Press, **Paul Kozlowski** has been named associate publisher; **Corinna Barsan** has been promoted to senior editor; and **Katie**

Henderson has moved up to editor.

At Harper Children's, **Mary-Kate Gaudet** has been promoted to editor.

Courtney Young has been promoted to editor at Portfolio, Sentinel and Current.

Serena Jones has just joined Times Books as an editor.

At Simon & Schuster Children's, **Kate Angelella** has been promoted to associate editor, Aladdin; **Alyson Heller** has been promoted to assistant editor, Aladdin; **Anica Rissi** has been promoted to executive editor, Simon Pulse; **Emilia Rhodes** has been promoted to assistant editor, Simon Pulse.

At Puffin Books, **Jennifer Bonnell** has been promoted to executive editor.

Caryn Karmatz Rudy, formerly executive editor at Grand Central and editorial director of 5 Spot, will join DeFiore and Company as an agent, starting in September.

All of the above are courtesy Publishers Marketplace.

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Publisher News

HCI Books has announced a new line, Vows, combining romance and memoir, to launch in October 2010. They dub it "reality-based romance," producing novels "based on personal interviews with real couples whose love stories read like the best in romantic fiction." *Courtesy Publishers Marketplace.*

Passion In Print—a MLR Press imprint coming in July 2010
Open Submissions Call for Destination: Desire Our new erotic romance specialty line.

Destination: Desire is open to any sexual heat level, any genre but sci-fi and fantasy, and the relationship must be M/F. The romance should conclude with a "happily ever after" or "happy for now." Word count range should be between 65K and 120K. Any manuscript submitted with less than 60K or more than 125K will be rejected without having been read. To submit a manuscript for consideration, please follow the guidelines below.

Tame: Mild sensuality, mild heat, occasional love scene, no graphic euphemisms.

Racy: Moderate sensuality, moderate heat, increased frequency of love scenes, some graphic language.

Spicy: High level of sensuality, detailed love scenes, graphic description of anatomy and of sexual acts.

Scorching: Intense erotic scenes. May include BDSM.

SUBMISSION: Your submission will have three parts: a cover letter, a synopsis, and a partial or full manuscript. Each and every one of these items should be proofread and spellchecked.

The letter: In your cover letter, include your real name, your pen name (if

any), your manuscript's genre, heat rating and word count, your contact information, and a summary of your writing or publishing experience. (If you're a first-time author, say so. We won't hold it against you. All our authors had a first time.) Point us to your promotional website if you have one. Tell us, for instance, to which writers' organizations you belong or in which writing contests you earned a prize or mention. Describe why you think your story should interest Passion In Print and its readers.

The synopsis: Give us a synopsis of your story. You might open it with brief descriptions of the major characters. Then, in one to three pages, detail the *significant* action in the story. A synopsis is not a blurb. Don't end the synopsis with a blurb-style teaser—*Can Jack save Diane from the forces that threaten to tear their world apart?* Tell us how the story ends.

The partial or the full manuscript: The final component is the story itself. We'd prefer to see the first three chapters plus the final one. Prologue and epilogue do not count as chapters. If the first sexual encounter doesn't happen within the first three chapters, please forward the chapters up to and including the first sexual episode.

In the subject line of your email, please state: **DESTINATION: DESIRE**, and send the cover letter as the body of your email and the synopsis and manuscript as an attachment to: submissions.pippress@gmail.com.

Submissions are open until October 15, 2010. At this time there is no limitation on the number of openings for this line, but Passion In Print reserves the right to determine a finite number of acceptances at a later date. All manuscripts will be given serious consideration. Rejected submissions will receive constructive critical feedback. Any questions with regard to submissions or the **Destination: Desire** line specifically, should be emailed to the submissions address above.

Carina Press, the e-book press of HQN, is looking for historical romances. Details are at:

<http://riskyregencies.blogspot.com/2010/01/carina-press-call-for-submissions.html>

and here's the link to their submission guidelines:

<http://carinapress.com/submission-guidelines/>

Realms of Fantasy has scheduled a special "Women in Fantasy" issue for August 2011, and the editors are looking for contributions now. If you are a woman who writes short fantasy fiction, this issue is for you. Stories should be no longer than 10,000 words. Payment is 6 cents a word for the first 7500 words and 4 cents a words thereafter. The deadline for submissions is November 15, 2010. Check their [writer's guidelines](#). *Courtesy Cynthia Sterling.*

Ellora's Cave is launching two new lines of erotic romance. **GenEdge**, aimed at 18-25 year old female readers, should feature 18-25 year old female protagonists. The heroes in these stories may be the same age as the women or older. These stories should have a young voice. These are erotica, so the sex is explicit and steamy. The length can range from 10,000 words to

125,000 words. **Branded** is a line of erotica aimed at women who enjoy reading about explicit sex but who believe sex should only take place only within marriage. These stories may be set in any time and place, but the couples involved must have made a commitment the equivalent of our understanding of marriage. These aren't religious or inspirational stories and the sex is as explicit as any other Ellora's Cave story, but the commitment to monogamy within marriage is part of the story. These stories also range from 10,000 to 125,000 words. For more information, check out their [Call For Submissions](#). *Courtesy Cynthia Sterling.*

Orbit Books, the science fiction and fantasy imprint of Hachette, has announced they'll begin publishing short fiction electronically this fall. Though right now they'll publish only stories by authors already published in book length fiction by Orbit, if the line is successful it could launch a new outlet for short fiction. The stories will sell for \$1.99 and the authors will receive royalties on their sales. *Courtesy Cynthia Sterling.*

The **International Thriller Writers** are putting out a call for submissions for a Thriller Anthology. You can read more about it here:

<http://us1.campaign-archive.com/?u=110228af76af71c6de2847e2a&id=9ba436029a&e=efb572e90e>

Eternal Press now has a new home and a new look at www.eternalpress.biz. For those who don't remember, my husband and I own Damnation Books and we acquired Eternal Press on January 1, 2010. Both are small pubs. We've changed the contracts somewhat and are now offering 40% royalties on digital/ebooks and 25% on print. We're asking for five years. We're looking for novella and novel length works 20,000 words and up. We have also reopened EP to young adult. Submission guidelines are at

<http://www.eternalpress.biz/submissions.php>

Distribution includes LSI, Amazon Kindle, Kobo, Blio, Fictionwise and more. Print includes US, Canada and UK through Lightning Source.

Kim Richards, CEO Damnation Books/Eternal Press

www.damnationbooks.com, www.eternalpress.biz

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Liberty States Fiction Writers ★ PO Box 2914 ★ Westfield, NJ 07090