



## May Meeting

By Shannon Canard

Come see NT's own Candy Havens presenting "Revision Hell: Getting Through It"

Candy Havens will talk about slogging through revisions. She'll break down the process and teach members how to add the texturing and layers a revision requires and she'll show us how to do it in less than a month.

Candy is a leading entertainment writer and an entertainment critic for 96.3 KSCS. She's written biographies on George Clooney and Joss Whedon. Her book, *Charmed & Dangerous*, is a double RITA finalist in the Best First Book and Novel with Strong Romantic Elements category. Visit her on the web at [www.candacehavens.com](http://www.candacehavens.com)

Also, don't forget... June critique

roundtable is fast approaching. If you want to have the first 10 pages of your manuscript critiqued by a published author, bring a hard copy to the May meeting. I'll talk to you about the author who can provide the best critique for your genre and we'll get you matched up!

You must include your name, the genre of the manuscript, and the targeted house in the header. Also, word count is helpful. (Standard formatting is acceptable; double spaced, Courier New, etc..) If you can't make it to the meeting, you can email the 10 pages to [scanard@sbcglobal.net](mailto:scanard@sbcglobal.net). Deadline to participate is May 20th. Critique will be in person at the June meeting. Authors will be on hand to discuss the critique and answer questions. It's a fabulous opportunity.

**Don't miss out!**

I think I did pretty well, considering I started out with nothing but a bunch of blank paper.

~ Steve Martin

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## President's Corner

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Ah, May. It seems like the year just started but here we are, nearly half way through. And so many of us have been busy writing! I'm inspired and encouraged by the sheer volume of pages written and edited every month and by the number of submissions going out to editors and agents. The list grows longer every time. Amazing, truly amazing.

I want to encourage everyone who hasn't taken the opportunity to utilize this tool to do so. Every page counts. Especially if you don't meet regularly with a critique group, the lists offer an accountability to continue forward momentum on the work.

May is also around the time the juggling act of life becomes a little more complicated. Weddings, graduations, baby showers, your teen's prom, end of year awards banquets, family vacations, reunions--I could go on, but you get the picture. All of these things take time away from the writing. But you don't have to let it derail the entire project, if you plan ahead. Here are a couple of tips to keep you on track:

Take a small, spiral notebook and stuff it in your purse to have on hand when your muse strikes. You know those inventive scenes or dialogue strike hardest when you're miles away from the computer!

If you have a handheld recorder, you can tape ideas or revisions on your commute to work, or while watching soccer practice or dance rehearsal.

If you like to read during lunch, take a chapter of your WIP to revise, instead. This will keep your mind focused on the WIP and the change of scene from your regular writing position can give you a new perspective on problem areas.

The point is to keep moving forward. No matter what. Make the writing a priority within your own mind. When we take our writing seriously, those around us take it seriously, too.

Happy Writing!  
Sherry Davis

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### 2006 Board Meetings

**The next board meeting will be May 20 at 9 am prior to the general meeting at La Hacienda Ranch Restaurant.**

**All general members are welcome and encouraged to attend.**

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## 2006 NTRWA Board Members & Liaisons

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# To Thine Own Self Be True

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By Mary Beth Lee

The following article appeared in the April edition of Love Letters, the monthly publication of Red River Romance Writers in Wichita Falls, TX. Permission granted for use with author and chapter credits.

The Call. I've chased that dream for nine years. I've told myself it was the ultimate goal. I've studied and written and revised and submitted and revised again. I've laughed at rejections. Cried at them too. All in search of The Call. I've heard multi-published authors say The Call creates even more stress. Listed authors say LIST-stress is the biggest stress of all. And still I've written. Manuscript after manuscript. All in pursuit of The Call.

And then, this year. I've always heard about the year from hell, but I laughed it off. How could I have the year from hell when my day job is my other dream job? When my students are the best in the school? When paper day is anticipated by the

student body with an excitement you can feel?

This year I quit laughing. I contemplated quitting the day job. Going back to the English classroom, where grading papers and classroom discipline would be my constant companions, and deadlines a thing of the past. I contemplated dropping writing from my life. Rejection after rejection on requested manuscripts, who needs it? I picked up a new habit: Colorado Bulldogs or cheap peach wine. In the past they'd been for fun. Now they were for relaxation.

The craft became my nightmare. I hated signing onto the computer. I didn't check e-mail. I took naps. The quest for The Call, my downfall instead of my dream. Defeat was immediate. No slow decent to acceptance. No buildup to disaster. One day I actively sought publication. The next, I didn't.

I looked at the year from hell and embraced it. It provided the perfect excuse to quit. To give up. To say The End. I read voraciously. I

watched a million hours of TV. I dabbled with writing activities, but more as a spectator than as part of the game. Life was easy. Every once in awhile, I'd feel the desire to write. A word, a page, a scene. Nothing lasting. Nothing constant. Blips on the radar screen of the last nine years of my life. I kept waiting for the rebirth of excitement for writing, and it never showed. If The Call was impossible, I wasn't chasing it. Nothing was changing my mind.

For years I'd written to publish. Why write stories that wouldn't publish? Didn't seem very business-savvy to me, and this publication stuff is definitely a business. But the business of writing was the part I failed. If The Call continued to be my driving force, the reason to write dimmed with each rejection. I don't know when that changed. Used to, I claimed each rejection as a victory, as a notch of sorts on my pre-publication belt. I'd reach the end, and I was a writer. Once that mindset changed, I couldn't get it back. Rejection was failure. No Call.

*Continued on page 6...*

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## Administration

**PAN** (Published Authors Network) is the name given to the discussion group intended to meet the needs of writers published or contracted to publish works in the romance genre.

**Heart to Heart** is published monthly by NTRWA, a non-profit organization founded in March of 1983 by aspiring and published writers of romance fiction.

**Heart to Heart** welcomes articles for publication in its monthly issues. Articles should contain fewer than 1000 words and pertain to matters of interest to romance writers.

**Heart to Heart** reserves the right to edit according to space or clarity, and to refuse articles that its editorial staff deems inappropriate for its readership. Deadline for publication is the 25th of each month.

**SISTER CHAPTERS:** Feel free to reprint articles from our newsletter as long as proper credit is provided for the chapter and the individual author.

**Non-RWA organizations** please contact the editor regarding reprints.

# Round Robin ~ Installment One

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By NTRWA Members

Hi folks, this is the first installment of a fun writing exercise. We have begun a story. So far, there are three installments of varying lengths by three member authors, who shall remain nameless for now. Thanks to you three, for getting us started—you should know who you are.

So here we go...

Jake's Silverado rattled down the gravel drive while his fingers kept rhythm to the Skynard tune on the radio. A night at Millie's Bar awaited him and he intended to have one helluva good time. A little pool, a little Jack, and, with any luck, a little lovin'.

Bumping over the cattle guard, he checked left then right before easing onto County Line Road. Out of nowhere, a Mustang convertible swerved past him. He slammed on the brakes, crunching stones beneath the tires.

"What the. . ." He watched the car weave from one side to the other before coming to an abrupt stop in the ditch. "Damn drunk driver."

Jake got out of his truck and headed for the car, ready to give the driver a piece of his mind.

"Idiot! What the hell were you thinkin'?"

Big brown eyes followed his every move. Dazed and distant--Satan incarnate. Maura.

He waited for the tongue-lashing. He'd crossed paths with Miss High and Mighty, Pecan Princess enough to know nothing was ever her fault.

Her auburn hair tumbled around her face. Long eyelashes stretched to touch her brows. Oh yeah, he'd been suckered in by the package before. But her antics in college deflated his ego for the last time.

"Maura, what are you tryin' to pull now?"

"Huh?" Oh great, a drunk beauty queen. The woman hadn't worked a day in her life. Hell, the words manual labor weren't even in her vocabulary. She and her friends probably shopped all day, ending with happy hour at the Tijuana Café.

"You have no business speeding along these curves." He reached past her, killed the engine and took the keys. Strange. It wasn't alcohol he smelled, but jasmine--sweet and intoxicating, threatening to consume his good sense.

"Who are you and why are you taking my keys?"

"Funny, Maura."

"And why do you keep calling me Maura?"

"Gee, I don't know--maybe because it's your name. Or would you prefer Miss Pecan?"

"Now why on earth would I want to be called that?" Her southern accent oozed like honey.

He plunged the keys into the pocket of his Wranglers and sighed. "Look. . . just get on your cell phone and call one of your little friends to come and get you. Your keys will be waiting at my place when you're sober."

*Continued on page 10...*

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## Visiting NTRWA

Anyone interested in the romance genre is invited to attend NTRWA meetings and workshops.

Visitors may attend three times before NTRWA requires they become members. All members of NTRWA must be members in good standing of Romance Writers of America (RWA).

Romance Writers of America  
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Suite 140  
Spring, Texas 77379

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Phone: 831-717-5200

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[info@rwanational.com](mailto:info@rwanational.com)

# This Little Romance Book Went to Market, This Little Romance Book Stayed Home

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**Presented by Sharon Mignerey in April 2006**

Recap written by Angela Cavener

## **Learn your craft.**

It is critical to learn your craft. You must become a good storyteller and to do this, you must feel a deep connection to your work. Focus on what ideas-themes-settings-subjects you feel passionate about.

Examples: honor, equality, fighting injustice, believing there is a hero in all of us.

Analyze what themes strike a chord within you.

Examples: fish out of water, stranger in a strange land, no man is an island, redemption.

## **Learn to analyze the books you read.**

It is important to use your reading as a learning tool for your writing. Consider your ten favorite novels. When you love a book, the author has done an excellent job at making you experience emotions. What is it about your favorite books that attract you? What did the author do well? Conversely, when you consider the worst books you've read, what was it

that didn't work? What can you avoid?

## **Learn your market.**

Who is publishing what you're writing? Consider recent books published in your target market. What common themes tie the books together and does your work fit in? Also, what sets your work apart? If someone wanted to read an author whose work is similar to yours, what author would that be?

Don't chase trends. By the time you finish your trend based book, chances are the trend has passed you by.

## **Know the do's and don'ts but know when to break the rules.**

## **Keep your manuscripts going to the right market - put it in the mail and keep it there.**

Angela Cavener is currently marketing a completed paranormal romantic suspense and has started on the proverbial journey paved with rejection letters. She is encouraged by those who have made the journey before her and who generously share their experience and knowledge.

The decision to kiss for the first time is the most crucial in any love story.  
It changes the relationship of two people much more strongly than even the final surrender;  
because this kiss already has within it that surrender.

Emil Ludwig

## Happy Birthday to You...

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Karen Whiddon, May 3  
Patricia Vermiere, May 12  
Britta Coleman, May 19  
Rene Hirth, May 23



Laura Martello, May 24  
Burna Cole, May 26  
Marsha Hullett, May 31

## To Thine Own Self Be True

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*Continued from page 3...*

And then... Something shifted. I don't know what. I don't know why. Once I let the quest for The Call go, I found a new reason to write. Strange, really. Nine years, tons of manuscripts, a total shut down, and suddenly something new? Something I didn't find in my study of craft. Something I found in me. Instead of writing for The Call, I started writing for me. For lessons I can learn from the people I create. For a deeper understanding of humanity. For the pure pleasure of language and syntax and grammar deconstruction and reconstruction. For the first time in

years, writing is fun. Will this new reason for writing last? I don't know. One day I might wake up with the burning desire to chase The Call once more.

For now, I'm glad The Call no longer drives me. Sometimes I ask myself if this is the cop-out of a multi-rejected author? If it is, it's one I can live with. It's one I'm thankful for. And I hope that if one day I do get lucky enough to find myself on the receiving end of The Call, I don't forget it. Because all those authors, the ones striving to reach the lists, the ones already there, say this business only gets harder once The

Call takes place. I can't imagine, but with all of them saying so, it must be true.

Mary Beth Lee advises international award winning student publications at Rider High School. A First Amendment junky, she's lucky enough to work with teenagers on a daily basis, helping them understand the importance of making their voices heard. On nights she's not on deadline, she can be found working on her latest manuscript. She speaks at writing conferences across the country. She's online at [www.marybethlee.com](http://www.marybethlee.com).

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**Meeting Minutes for April's meeting will be posted to NT's Yahoo loop.  
Paper copies will be available at May's meeting.**

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A word a day keeps the editor at bay...

**caparison** • \kuh-PAIR-uh-sun\ • *noun*

**1 a** : an ornamental covering for a horse **b** : decorative trappings and harness

**\*2** : rich clothing : adornment

**Example sentence:**

For her role as the queen, the costume department fitted Rita with the kind of caparisons suitable only for royalty.

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## Welcome Visitors

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Christine Keniston, Nikki Duncan, Christine Crocker,  
Regina Richardson, and Barbara Harrison all came to visit in April.

Nice to have you all and we hope to see you again some time.

# Spotlight On... Carolyn Williamson

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By Gina Lee Nelson

**Good morning, Carolyn. I understand you were a founding member of NTRWA?**

Thanks for asking. Yes, I am a founding member. Well, I went to the first meeting. Kaye Rose Miller was there and became one of the first officers. I am also a charter member of RWA. I joined in 1981. They organized in December of 1980.

**What's your background? How long have you been writing?**

I have taught home economics and English in high school and federal prison. In the prison, a coed minimum security one, I taught ironwork, carpentry and painting. Actually, there were experienced teachers who taught the hands-on shop work. I assigned reading and gave tests. I also did research for a mincemeat company in Chicago, and worked as a waitress at Denny's and the Hyatt Hotel in Dallas. In 1990, I decided to go to paralegal school in Dallas and have been working as a paralegal since then. I worked for the EPA for three years and prepared the complaints to sue companies that violated the federal regulations on PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls - in

case you wanted to know), which are also found in fluorescent light tubes. If you break one, be careful.

I hate to say I have been writing since 1981, but don't have much published to show for it. I have had profile and travel articles published in newspapers and magazines as well as my book, *There IS Life After Lettuce*. I have been program chairman, secretary, hospitality chairman, and president of NTRWA.

**What do you write?**

I write mostly contemporary romantic suspense. I have written a time travel set in 1812 on Mackinac Island and one straight romance (that's the one under the proverbial bed). I have also written proposals for a sequel to *There IS Life After Lettuce* (with my two co-authors, but I wrote most of it) and a proposal for a low carb cook book.

**How do you think you have grown as a writer?**

People at the DFW Writer's Workshop (a large critique group where we read out loud) who have returned after a few years say I have gotten better. I now know how to sneak in scenery description while something is happening

and how to stay in a viewpoint and show what other characters are thinking by what they do, say, or by their expressions. I have learned how to fast forward from the house to driving away without walking out the door, turning the house key, stepping into the car and turning on the ignition, etc. If I skip too many steps, my critiquers comment on it and I fix it.

**Where do you see yourself in five years?**

See myself in five years with one novel sold, maybe a cookbook as well, and hopefully a contract for a second novel. Hope to be working part time or retired by then.

**What do you struggle with in your writing?**

I struggle with rejection - have over 20.

*Continued on page 11...*



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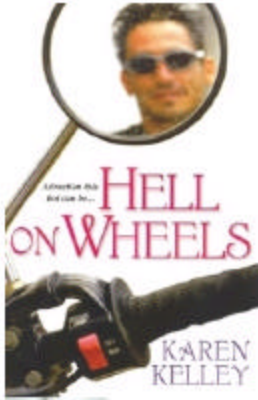
**Newsletters are now available in electronic format.**

**If you are interested in receiving your newsletter via email,  
please contact Jen FitzGerald at [jen@stormsedge.com](mailto:jen@stormsedge.com) or 817-457-6414.**

## Member News

### Check out Karen Kelley's latest cover!

Hell On Wheels will be available in June 2006.



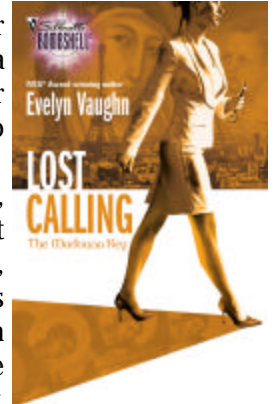
No doubt about it: Cody Carlyle is the hottest bounty hunter around with a well-deserved reputation for bringing in the toughest skips. If she's learned one motto in this business—and in life—it's this: never turn your back. Never give an inch. And never, ever offer your heart.

Fellow bounty hunter Josh Pierce has had his eye on Cody's every luscious curve for quite some time. The hunky ex-undercover cop would love to show her that some things are worth believing in, things like the kind of ecstasy he'd happily show her in bed. Hey, fighting this kind of white-hot attraction is just wrong. So why not give in to a little Josh Pierce temptation? Why not share one amazing, toe-curling night of indescribable, head-scrambling passion and then walk away, no hard feelings? But the night they spend together is beyond amazing. It's sheer bliss. Not that it could ever happen again. Could it?

What was supposed to be a one-time deal is quickly becoming a very tempting habit—one they could stop at any time, of course. Like after the next time. Or maybe next week—no rush. Suddenly, two bounty hunters who never believed in anything are open to everything, scared of it all, and ready to discover what happens when you go after the biggest catch out there...true love...

### Check out Yvonne Jocks' new cover!

Lost Calling will be available in July 2006.



The first earthquake was not her fault. Sure, curator Catrina Dauvergne is no candidate for sainthood. But neither is she so bad that God would send a freak earthquake to Paris to smite her, either. Dropped into the long-lost grave of five guillotined women, Catrina gets 18th-century visions so powerful that they scare even her. In order to salvage the site, she enlists the help of one of the few men to ever refuse her advances--former priest and current archeology student Rhys Pritchard. Together they try to solve the mystery: why was a ladies' book club from the French Revolution not only executed, but erased? And why does Catrina keep finding all those keys? And who is trying to kill her?

Before she knows it, Cat is embroiled in far more than urban archeology. She must decipher hidden letters, navigate bone-walled catacombs, join the gargoyles at the topmost reaches of Notre Dame--and, if she's lucky, stop more earthquakes from striking. Because if, as she's coming to believe, they are induced, and she's the only one who knows about it? Sooner or later, one of these earthquakes will be her fault.

And not just because God probably frowns on attempts to seduce even ex-priests....

You guys are doing great! Kudos to all of you who wrote and edited and proudly listed your totals, but due to space considerations, only the top five producers will be listed...

#### NEW PAGES ~ Top 5

Sherry Davis, 108  
Paula Wachter, 90  
Anjalie Gilby, 45  
Cheryl Hathaway, 25  
Mindy Obenhaus, 25

#### EDITED PAGES ~ Top 5

Sandra Ferguson, 414  
Cheryl Hathaway, 350  
Beth Shriver, 325  
Sherry Davis, 259  
Carolyn Williamson, 225

Way to go everyone. Keep those fannies in the chair and the fingers on the keyboard!



## Tape Talk - Review

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Tape Review RWA10-82  
Article Review by Jen FitzGerald

Tape: The Heroine's Journey by Elaine Stirling  
Article: The Hero's Journey for Romance Writers

*The Heroine's Journey* is a great companion piece for [The Writer's Journey](#) by Chris Vogler and [The Hero's Journey for Romance Writers](#) by Colleen Gleason.

There were a great many 'aha' moments

for me while listening to the tape. Although she has given each step in the heroine's journey an alternate name, Elaine Stirling does a great job of explaining what should be happening in your book during each stage of the journey as well as telling where in your book it should be happening. There were a couple of stages she didn't explain so well, at least for me, but the rest of it more than made up for it.

Colleen Gleason's article in the April 2006 issue of RWR filled in the gaps Elaine Stirling left. Colleen explains, in

depth, each stage of the journey and how they apply to a romance novel.

Between Elaine and Colleen, I was better able to grasp the concept of the journey and better able to apply it to my WIP. I think by using both these tools, or all three if you want to include Vogler's work, three of the components of a romance novel, the hero and heroine's personal journeys and the journey of their romance, can be better entwined.

Check out the tape, read the article, and see what you think.

## Book Club News & Reviews

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Join the NTRWA Book Club monthly at the Barnes & Noble in North Richland Hills. The group usually meets on the first Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM. All members of NTRWA are welcome to join the discussion.

In April, the book club read [Something Wicked](#) by NT's own Yvonne Jocks (who writes as Evelyn Vaughn. From Arline Todd: [SOMETHING WICKED](#) is another

great read from Evelyn Vaughn (Von Jocks). It's the second book from Vaughn in the fascinating *Grail Keepers* series put out by Bombshell. The suspense will keep you on the edge of your seat as Ben and Katie join forces and travel to Greece to rescue the true grail and keep it from the evil Comitatus members. Katie is hit with conflicts on all sides. She must deal with a victor growing more menacing. She must outwit the Comitatus men who

seek to destroy the grail. And she must search her soul to understand her growing romantic relationship with Ben. The book has a satisfying end, but includes a note of suspense that really makes it difficult for me to wait patiently for the next book.

Upcoming book selections:

June 1st: Jenna Mills' [Killing Me Softly](#)  
July 6th: Karen Kelley's [Hell on Wheels](#)

## PAN: In the Loop

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NT is delighted to present a monthly online session with our authors entitled IN THE LOOP.

On the first full week of each month one of our authors will present a daily article on writing. Anyone who is subscribed to the NT Yahoo loop will automatically receive this free monthly post presented by NT PAN members.

May 1st - 5th

Karen Kelley  
Presents

Making Your Book Stand Out Above the Rest

June 5th - 9th

Britta Coleman  
Presents

Making the Most of Your Conference Experience

# Round Robin ~ Installment One

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*Continued from page 4...*

He turned and started for his truck.  
Damn fool, rich bit. . .

“Excuse me.”

Don’t turn around. Keep walking.

“Please.” Jake chuckled, surprised she knew the word. Ah, hell.

“What is it, Maura?” She looked different. Not her usual arrogant self. The crash must’ve shaken her up a bit. Brought her back to human form anyway.

“Which friend should I call?”

“I don’t care. Muffy, Tiffany. . . you pick. I don’t have the time or patience for this.”

“Who are you?” Her eyes seemed to search his for answers. He stepped closer. What was her game this time? And why did he always end up the butt of her practical jokes? “It’s obvious you know me, but I. . .

I can’t remember.” Either her acting had gotten better or he was a bigger sucker than he thought.

He tipped his Stetson back. “You don’t remember?”

She shook her head.

Okay, you wanna play games, we’ll play games. “Well, darlin’, I know we had a little tiff, but I never thought you’d forget me.” He dropped a heated kiss to her lips. After a brief hesitation, she sighed and leaned into him. He jerked away, wiping his mouth with the back of his hand. Miss Priss wouldn’t have taken her act that far. This didn’t add up. He tilted her face to get a good look. Nothing indicated she’d hit her head. Her pupils were normal.

“Follow my finger.” He moved it left, right, up, down and her eyes traveled along with no problem. Jake rubbed the back of his neck as he paced next to the car. Maybe she’d grown tired of her old tricks and had

to kick things up a notch to get her thrills. Whatever the case, he intended to teach her a lesson she wouldn’t soon forget.

“Come on, sweet thing.” Opening her car door, he scooped her into his arms. “We’d better get you home.”

“Home?”

“Mmm, hmm. I believe you promised me a cold beer. Not to mention some fried chicken for supper. Yep, I can just taste it now. Then maybe later we’ll see if I can’t refresh your memory in a more. . . personal way.”

*To Be Continued...*

If you’re interested in taking part in our Round Robin, please contact Jen FitzGerald at 8 1 7 - 4 5 7 - 6 4 1 4 o r jen@stormsedge.com.

## Jen’s Journal

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Well, I didn’t just do it. In fact, I haven’t done it at all for awhile.

Write, I mean. What were you thinking?

The characters and the plot of my current WIP have crossed my mind a time or two and I carry around the longing for an earlier time in my life when I had the time to do it. Of course, the journey from then to now should provide fodder for some future tale, but recently I’ve come to

one major conclusion: 18-year-olds need just as much supervision as 3-year-olds. Solomon was absolutely right when he claimed there was an appointed time for everything. It seems that, for now, it is time to get my oldest child graduated and through college without any major catastrophes.

I take my hat off to all you writers who really write. Every day. No matter what. I’m just a wanna-be

right now, but in the meantime, I will continue to read, continue to learn the craft, and continue to gather life experiences. Someday, I really will write that book. I’ll bet you \$75 a year that I write at least one—okay, another one. I do have one gathering cyber dust.

And if I never get published, that’s okay. Really. (*Really*.) It’s all about the journey, not the destination.

## The Truth About Publishing Myths ~ Myth #3

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By Shelley Bradley

3. Once you're published, it's always easier to sell again. Um...no. A survey done by RWA about 5 years ago indicated 52% of those who sell a first book never sell a second. The odds are probably just as bad for every type of fiction. This means you always have to be working hard. Period.

What's more, in some cases you get LESS latitude as a previously published author than a brand new debut author. Why? Publishers assume that there's some reason readers didn't take to you the first time. Otherwise, you wouldn't be starting over. Debut authors are blank slates

with no track record with chain stores and book distributors. Based on your genre and publisher, etc., they can make nice, safe estimates about how you'll perform. When you're previous track record is old or isn't glowing, your sales results may be poor or unpredictable--and number crunchers don't like either.

What does this mean for you? Try to have more than one book stacked in your closet before you sell. A multi-book contract out the door gives you a little more time to build a readership, particularly if your publisher will schedule those releases close together. But being published doesn't mean you can start

phoning in your books. Just the opposite. Each one has to be at least as good as the last. And the ending of your current book sells your next book to that reader. Last, never forget that your editor is the first reader you have to please.

The author of sizzling contemporary, erotic, and historical romances, Shelley Bradley lives in the southwest with her husband and daughter, juggling the many roles in her life: writer, mother, wife, and all around laundress. In her "free" time, she is a reality TV junkie, enjoys reading, obsessively studying all things Harry Potter, doing step aerobics and weightlifting, and listening to an eclectic blend of music.

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### Join Tex-Critiquers

NTRWA has it's own critique service!

Join our group and trade critiquing with fellow chapter members.

For more information, contact Gina Nelson at [nelsonwriting@yahoo.com](mailto:nelsonwriting@yahoo.com).

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## Spotlight On... Carolyn Williamson

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### **What keeps you going?**

I keep writing because it doesn't feel right if I don't. I have spent a lot of time on writing and don't want to quit after all I've done. Besides I'd rather do that

than housework. At times I think I have learned all I need to know, but I keep getting rejected.

### **What accomplishment are you most proud of?**

I'm proud of my cookbook and my well-adjusted kids.

New to romance writing, Gina Lee Nelson is *still* working to complete her first manuscript, a tender romance set in NYC, her stomping ground for seven exhilarating years.



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## Meeting Information

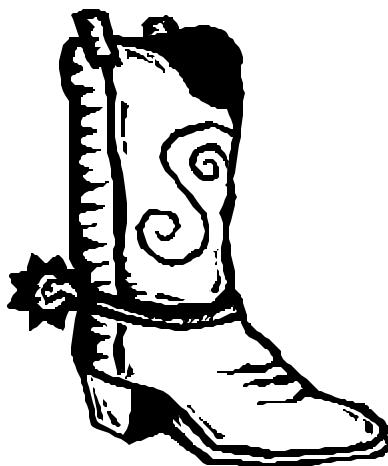
May 20, 2006

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NTRWA Monthly Meeting  
La Hacienda Ranch Restaurant  
5250 Highway 121 South  
Colleyville, TX

10:00 ~ 10:30 Meet & Greet  
10:30 ~ 10:45 Welcome & Announcements  
10:45 ~ 11:45 Workshop  
11:45 ~ 12:00 Break/Order Lunch  
12:00 ~ 1:00 Business Meeting

**Visitors Welcome**



**“Revision Hell,  
Getting Through It”  
Candy Havens**