

Jen FitzGerald

From: NTRWA Newsletter <newsletter=ntrwa.org@mail177.us4.mcsv.net> on behalf of NTRWA Newsletter <newsletter@ntrwa.org>
Sent: Friday, February 01, 2013 12:59 AM
To: Jen FitzGerald
Subject: Newsletter

Don't forget we're celebrating our 30th anniversary next month. Heather Long will be sharing her pre-writing techniques and the ten questions you need to answer before you start writing your next book at the February meeting. Make this your year!

[View this email in your browser](#)



Founded March 1983

February 2013

Chapter 33, Region 5

Volume 32, Issue 2

Letter from the President

Recharging my Creative Batteries...

January's meeting has come and gone, and I really enjoyed meeting some new people. I hope we mix things up a little more often. Every meeting recharges my writing batteries—talking with friends I communicate with on the loop regularly and meeting fresh new faces (and trying to remember everyone's name) makes for a great Saturday.

Now that I'm home and back in the typing chair, I'm faced with recalcitrant characters that won't do what I want them to do. Ever have that problem?

The book is almost finished, you're down to the wire and the plot chart is all filled in, but the people on the page want to do something completely different?

Like, tell the secret too soon?!

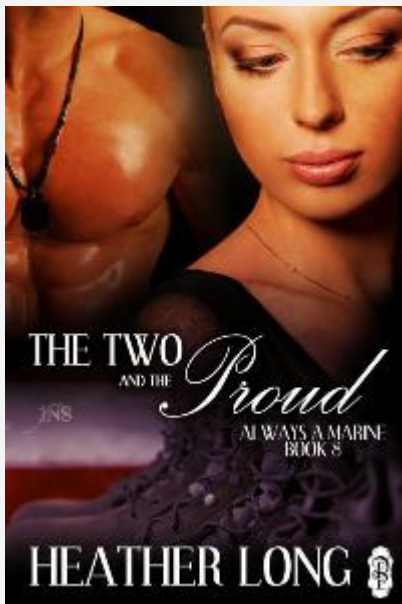
The last thirty pages are going to kill me, I just know it.

I'm thinking a day of reading blogs and surfing the net will redirect the characters...but I need to get this book done. The next one is already knocking at the screen door of my brain, wanting to set started.

Maybe I'll just type on autopilot and see exactly where Kellie and Mark want to go.....

Can you tell I'm a pantsner?

-Michelle Welsh



Roger Michael Easton IV, better known as Rowdy, flouted the family's Naval tradition to enlist the Marines—not as an officer, but a ground-pounding grunt. He never expected to see as much combat or valor as he did in the field, but every engagement furthered his commitment to his brothers in arms. Now, with an offer to end his contract early on the table,

Rowdy has to take a long look at the life he left behind, the life he's built, and the future he longs to have.

Rowdy wants a woman who gets him.

Inactive Marine, Kim Wakefield, continues to serve her country as a Naval Criminal Investigator. She's hard on the grunts and sailors because she is one of them—and they didn't sign up for easy. Tired of the seedier side of military life—picking up drunk Marines, AWOL sailors, busting drug running operations, or worse, sending drug addicted servicemen to court marshal and treatment. She longs to have her faith in her fellow Marines restored.

Kim wants a man who knows what she needs.

Thrown together by chance on a 1Night Stand, these two jarheads have a combustible chemistry—but do they have what it takes?



For generations, the Ryhans, ruling family of the Province of Greenwald have been keepers of a sword rumored to possess enough magic to defeat kings. Lord Varthan, a former archduke and betrayer of the king, covets the sword and invades Greenwald.

Lady Ceralda Ryhan, daughter of the murdered duke, gains the sword and flees, trusting only her white wolf, Trikser—magically bonded to her. Cera needs nothing more to aid in her fight. Jorin Aldern, half elfin and half human, left his home in the mountains of Aramour to find his human father who disappeared twenty turns before, but finds Cera with Varthan and his shades on her tail instead.

His dual heritage and empathic magic will tempt Cera in ways she never

thought she'd desire. But can he convince her trust and love can pave the path to redemption or will the epic battle end in tragedy and evil conquer them all?

January 19, 2013

BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER:

A regular meeting for the North Texas Romance Writers of America (NTRWA) was held on Saturday, January 19, 2013 at the La Hacienda Restaurant in Colleyville, Texas. The President and Secretary were present. The meeting was called to order at 10:40 a.m. The minutes for the December meeting were approved as corrected and as printed in the January newsletter.

OFFICER REPORTS:

President: Michelle Welsh: No report

President-Elect: Clover Autrey: No report

Secretary: Nancy Connally: No report

Treasurer: In the absence of Angi Morgan, Jen FitzGerald reported:

- Reported on finances. Treasurer's Report will be filed for audit.

Program Director: Lara Lacombe reported:

- Explained ideas behind mixed seating numbers and "Ask Me" stickers.
- February speaker: Heather Long
- The March 30th Anniversary Meeting speaker: Charter Member Carolyn Williamson.

Membership Director: Jen FitzGerald reported:

- Membership applications were emailed. Fifteen members have officially renewed. Members have until the end of February to renew.
- Introduced three visitors: Chelsea Mueller, Amber Munnerylyn, and Susannah McClung.

Communications Director: Heather Long reported:

- The e-newsletter is being distributed through MailChimp. Members need to sign up for the newsletter.
- A form for submitting news for the newsletter is on the listserv/Yahoo loop.
- Spotlights will be emailed separate from the newsletter before the meeting.

Website Director: D'Ann Burrow was absent.

COMMITTEE COORDINATOR REPORTS:

PAN Liaison: Nikki Duncan was absent.

PRO Liaison: Jeanne Guzman was absent.

Great Expectations: Heather Long reported:

- Judges should return entries by January 30th.

Hospitality: Sidney Bristol: No report

Spotlights: Gina Nelson reported:

- Clover Autrey was the Spotlight member.

Audio Librarian: Clover Autrey: No report

Writing Incentives: Chrissy Szarek reported:

- Explained qualifications for drawing from the Treasure Chest.
- Explained about recording pages written and pages edited on the clipboard to be eligible for quarterly drawing for gift card.
- Explained clipboards are the way to share accomplishments at meetings.

Texas Two-Step: Nikki Duncan was absent.

Bylaws: Angi Morgan was absent.

30th Anniversary: Lara Lacombe: No report

Unfinished Business: None

New Business:

- Jen FitzGerald moved and it was seconded that the minutes of the October 20, 2012 meeting be approved as read. The motion passed.
- Meeting dates for 2013 were announced as: January 19, February 16, March 16, April 20, May 18, June 15, membership to decide whether July meeting will be July 13 or July 20, August 17, September 21, October 19, November 1-3 Retreat, and December 14.
- Kim Quinton moved and it was seconded that the July meeting be July 13. The motion passed.
- Michelle Welsh announced that Angi Morgan requires volunteers for a spot check of the accounting books either before or after the February meeting.
- Michelle Welsh announced a Board Meeting after the General Meeting. All members were welcome.
- Carolyn Williamson provided information about the DFW Writers' Workshop Conference.
- Roni Loren announced she will be speaking at the Conference and presenting two workshops.

Next Business Meeting: 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, February 16, 2013 at La Hacienda. The meeting adjourned at 11:01 a.m.

Submitted electronically by Nancy Connally

Date Approved: _____

Date Corrected: _____

Most Pages Written

- Heather Long - 275
- Roni Loren - 200
- Michelle Welsh- 134
- Chrissy Szarek - 84
- Christine Crocker 75

Most Pages Edited

- Sidney Bristol - 702
- Chrissy Szarek - 652
- Jerrie Alexander - 364
- Heather Long - 350
- Raquel Rodriguez - 234



A RANGER WITH UNFINISHED BUSINESS-

AND A BABY ON THE WAY

Cord McCrea was the Texas Ranger of her dreams...but their life together ended like a nightmare. They were too proud and stubborn, and there was no repairing the damage done to their family. All Kate Denver McCrea had now was the reminder he'd left growing inside her.

Now the crazed gangster who'd shattered Cord's life was a free man, and he wanted to settle some old scores. Cord would do anything to protect his ex-wife, but once she was safe, they would go their separate ways again.

Only, the baby changed everything. If they could survive the perils of a west Texas winter while outmaneuvering danger at every pass, they might have a second chance. Because with a traitor in their midst, they had no one to trust-except each other.



THE MORE SHE REMEMBERS...

After witnessing her mother's murder as a child, Jolene Atkins had forced the memories from her mind. Now the killer had resurfaced, but this time Jo had Levi Cooper to protect her. Even if he was disobeying direct orders from the U.S. Marshal service to do so....

THE MORE ONE U.S. MARSHAL HAS TO PROTECT HER

Levi had vowed years ago to always keep the innocent beauty safe. So when Jo insisted on finally getting some answers, Levi had no choice but to help her. But watching as the pain of the past threatened to crush a spirited Jo, Levi ignored every professional instinct and pulled her into his arms.

After one night together, Levi was more determined than ever to close this case. Because that one night would never be enough....

The following article was first printed in the Oct 2011 issue of MRW Interpretations and may be used with permission and acknowledgment of the chapter, Midwest Romance Authors, and author, Kim Gabauer.

Writing a Villain Readers Will Care About

by Kim Gabauer

Just wrapping up a class with CJ Lyons called; "Thrillers with Heart", and "Villains, and Those Who Pursue Them" with Dr. Cynthia Clark, and I learned so much from them. One of the best things I learned was you MUST have a villain readers will care about.

My WIP is about a sociopathic female serial killer. Being in the Mental Health field I know in order for my character to be a true sociopath she would have traits like: glibness, self-centeredness, and she would mimic emotions because sociopaths feel nothing for anyone else but themselves. Most are narcissistic and very BORING!

So, as a writer you must dig deeper into their character and find something redeemable in them. Dr. Clark used the example "Dexter", the killer character, written by: Jeff Lindsay, who inspired the hit Showtime series with the same name. In one episode, he acknowledges if he "could feel anything towards anyone, it would be for his sister.

Then in a later show, Dexter's sister moves in with him and leaves the OJ on the table without putting it away. Dexter, who's a clean freak, says to himself, "I must not kill my sister". It was not only funny, but something all of us had felt, one time or another, and it was a connection to the audience. Something we all have in common.

Another lesson: the villain and the hero share outer/inner goals. An outer goal would be: Villain-Not to get caught by hero. Hero-To catch the Villain. Inner goals are something both need, and are unaware that they need it until they end. They often mimic each other as well. Dexter is a serial killer who kills other serial killers, who went to court and was acquitted.

He hands down justice by exposing the serial killers with pictures of their victims before he kills and dismembers them. Ironic yes, both share the need for power and control.

And lastly, any good villain will be smarter than the hero for 90% of the book. But in the end the hero always wins!

Happy Writing!

Kim Gabauer, who writes as Diane Kratz, is the co-author of a horror short story and the sole writer behind a series of action thrillers and horrific romances awaiting either completion or submission.

BOOK SIGNINGS

Kat Cantrell, Angi Morgan, Diane Kelly, and Elizabeth Essex

Saturday Feb 16th, 1 to 3

Barnes & Noble Arlington at the Parks

3881 S. Cooper St. Suite 2027, Arlington, TX 76015

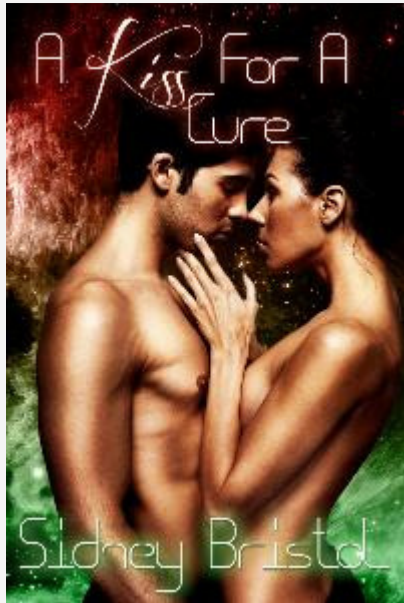
Kat Cantrell, Angi Morgan, Diane Kelly, Elizabeth Essex, Jerrie Alexander, and Kelly Lee

Saturday Feb 23rd, 2 to 4

<http://store-locator.barnesandnoble.com/event/4159032>

Plano/Creekwalk Village

Creekwalk Village, 801 West 15th St Suite E, Plano, TX 75075



What's a girl to do when her parents gift her with a man for Christmas?

Caught between two kingdoms, Jordan has given up the privileged world of intergalactic court life to become an interstellar biologist researching space sharks.

Unexpectedly saddled with a husband from a race who are rumored to be sex fiends, her life is yanked in a direction she doesn't want. But Cai isn't human and he must have the emotional feedback of a mate in order to survive.

Charged with protecting Jordan, can he win her heart and keep her safe from harm? Will they survive the challenges that arise...sexual, emotional and political?

Time is ticking away and it's not on their side.

This article first appeared in one of the October issues of MARA Matters. It may be re-used by sister RWA chapters with proper credit to chapter and author. Thanks!

Writing Sex Scenes

How do you get those words on the page?

by Jackie Bannon



What begins as Clay's first family vacation with his new wife quickly dives into disaster. He may be the submissive in their relationship, but he's no shy violet. Bianca has taught him the quickest way to turn her on is a challenge, so he's throwing down the gauntlet. Bianca butts heads with not just her brothers but her husband when the family torturing begins.

But the joke is on him. She's ready to put him through the most erotic misery of all. In public, at a night club and all over the city, she'll show him who is Dominant in their relationship until he's screaming for more.

Their relaxing Paris vacation turns into a mad dash through the ancient streets, a competition of wills and a new exploration of what it takes to make their relationship work. From bondage, discipline and very public orgasms to navigating the Métro, family feuds and overcoming the language barrier, they're going to redefine the word fun.

Do you use the word 'clitoris' or 'cock' when you write? Or do you still blush at the thought? When I first starting writing romance novels, I thought writing sex scenes would be easy.

I'd read romance novels for almost a decade...how hard could they be? When it came time to write my first sex scene, I stared at the computer screen for half a day without typing a single word and finally wrote "They had sex" before moving on, completely mortified I couldn't even start one.

Then, I hit the bookstores. That's when I found *The Joy of Writing Sex* by Elizabeth Benedict. This book opened my eyes and made me realize that writing sex scenes didn't have to be difficult.

In order to gain a readers attention, writer's use goal, motivation, and conflict (GMC), point of view (POV), world building, character building...I could go on and on. Sex scenes are just another tool a writer uses to show, not tell, more about our character. Sex can be used to show a characters weakness, to show a characters internal conflict, and to show a relationship develop between a hero and heroine – and just like every other writer's tool, I had to learn how to use it.

First, you need to know what type of book you are writing, so you know what heat level you want to write. There are several different levels, there are even sub-levels within each heat level and everyone has a different definition. Below is a loose guideline of the current heat levels in the romance industry, which changes constantly. Review your target market before you make any decisions. Hot for one publishing line may not be the same for another, even if it is in the same publishing house.

Heat Levels

- Porn – The intent is to arouse the reader, not to focus on the relationship. This usually isn't included in the romance industry today.
- Erotic – Contains graphic sexual detail and usually a third party (which may be another person or an inanimate object such as toys or emotions such as pain). You'll find self-pleasure, BDSM, etc. This level also includes trigger words instead of euphemisms. Cock instead of penis, etc.
- Hot – Sex scenes maybe graphic, but are less graphic than erotic. You may find some self-pleasure here, but the focus is on the relationship, and though trigger words may still be used, they are not used to the same degree as in erotic scenes. Some publishers do not publish erotic, though they will take what others would consider erotic submissions and publish it under this level.
- Spicy – Even less graphic and focused on the more sensual side of sex. This includes a deeper exploration the relationship and feelings between a hero and heroine.
- Sweet – Usually shorter sex scenes focused on the relationship. The author focuses more about getting to the bedroom than being in it, though authors still can include the actual sex act.
- Closed Door – Sex is insinuated, not shown. The focus is on getting to bed without including the sexual act. Foreplay may or may not be discussed.

Now that you know the different heat levels, where do you think you write? Where do you want to write? When I first started, I thought I was writing Hot though I was actually writing Spicy. My natural inhibitions held me back and I had to find a way to overcome this. I would sit in front of the computer, my face beat red as I tried to push myself.

Here's the key though – practice, just as you practice every other tool of writing. Push yourself. Expand your boundaries. No one has to know what you read. No one has to know how bad your first few drafts were. Until you are comfortable with your writing, shoot above where you want to be. And if your writing turns you on, don't freak out. While the purpose was not to turn you on, at least you know someone finds it exciting.

Use it to your advantage - share it with your partner if you have one – he/she might appreciate it.

Still, how do you 'practice'? This is where Elizabeth Benedict's book comes in. There is no way to cover all the aspects she discusses; however, here are four organization principals she lists and how they helped me:

1. "A good sex scene is not always about good sex but it is always an example of good writing." – My translation: No matter how good the sex is, if the writing is poor, your reader won't get into the scene. You still need the basic principals of writing to pull your reader in. Why are we here? What is the purpose? I've seen people use sex to show how horrible their villain is, just as I've seen people use it show the relationship develop between the hero and heroine.

The memorable scenes show us aspects of the hero or heroine we wouldn't get a chance to see otherwise. Think about yourself during sex. It's a vulnerable and exciting experience. There are tons of things going through your mind. The key to writing these scenes is to balance the internal emotion with the external action without slowing the scene or alienating the reader.

2. "A good sex scene should always connect to the larger concerns of the work." – My translation: Is there a point to your sex scene? The sex should be about furthering the relationship between the hero and heroine – about furthering the plot, not just sex for the sake of sex, unless your heat level requires it.

3. "The needs, impulses, and histories of your character should drive the sex scene." – My translation: Use the sex scene as a tool to reveal more about your character. Show the reader what is going on inside your characters heads. Are they nervous? If so why? Do they want the lights off? If so, why?

4. "The relationship your characters have to each other – whether they are adulterers or strangers on a train – is critical to what happens in a sex scene." - My translation: The relationship will set the stage for more than just the sex. It will set the stage for internal conflict, mood, and emotions. Look at what is going on around them. Set the scene and use it.

Ok, so we know what we want, but how do we overcome our own hesitation? The truth is everyone writes sex scenes differently. Find a way that works for you. Even today, the first drafts of my sex scenes are very analytical. I have to go back and add emotion, thoughts, etc. I have to edit, edit, edit! If you need to, get a glass of wine, play some music, whatever it takes to put you in the mood.

Here are some ways to add other tools to make you feel more comfortable.

Goal/Motivation/Conflict

Some authors will tell you that you have to have a GMC for every scene. Some will say you don't. When it comes to sex scenes, unless you're writing porn, you need a reason for the scene besides the sex. Without it, why does the reader care that they've gone to the bedroom? The goal and/or motivation could be physical satisfaction or an emotional connection. Either will work, as long as the reader understands why they are there. Even at the erotic level, readers want a happy ending – not necessarily marriage, but a happy ending. Show the conflict (internal doubts), show the development (shift from sex to making love)...use sex as a tool to move the hero/heroine toward their happy ending.

Character Building

You've got to build your characters so your reader wants to care about what happens to them. Sex can be used as very personal form of communication, revealing doubts, conflicts, and emotions sometimes better than words. Once you've built your characters, stay in character (i.e. stay in their point of view) and explore their minds.

World Building

Where your characters are plays a part in your characters personalities. Why wouldn't this be part of the bedroom as well? I wouldn't talk about what they see around them during sex. I mean, come on...do you think of the shade of the bedspread when you have sex? But if they are having sex someplace else, say an airplane bathroom, the location of the sex tells you a lot about the characters. Use that. It usually doesn't take more than a couple lines scattered here or there. Also, some of the

best sex scenes aren't about good sex. In Janet Chapman's *Seductive Impostor*, a third party hears a scream and walks in just as the hero orgasms. She knocks him out to save the heroine from an attacker. I still smile to this day when I see that book and reread it all the time. Why? Because the entire book was like that. The world they lived in was so colorful and amazing.

Point of View

You've spent all this time building your character – don't cheat the reader or your character now by being shy. Be honest with them. Are your characters fucking or making love? Men and women categorize sex differently at different times in a relationship. Use this to show the progression of the relationship, to show the reader how the feelings developed. Just because someone starts out 'fucking' at the beginning of the book doesn't mean he/she won't change switch to thinking of it as 'making love' by the end. Build the sexual tension between your characters, make the reader like them, and make the reader want to see their relationship progress to the bedroom. Often, sexual tension is more desired than the sexual act.

Timeline

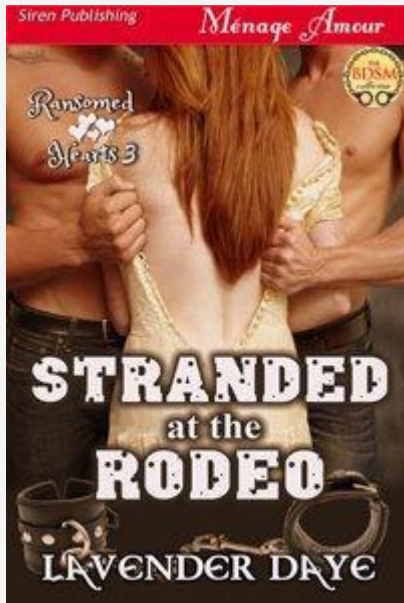
If your characters aren't ready to hop into bed, it will show. If you're a plot driven writer – don't panic. This doesn't mean you have to redesign your entire outline. Look at where the relationship is – have you developed the romance enough to do what you want to do? If you're a character driven writer – again don't panic. You probably haven't built enough sexual tension, haven't developed the relationship, or are pushing things to fast.

Last but not least...As a single woman who is dating, I can usually tell within the first three chapters if the writer has been married for a while. I hate to say this, but several first meetings or relationship beginnings in romance books aren't realistic. I'm not talking about how they meet, but how they act. Often the characters focus on things single people wouldn't focus on during a first meeting. They are missing that initial self-doubt or self-awareness. Do some research. Go out with your single friends to a nightclub and listen to them. Listen to what they talk about as a guy goes by, or what they say to each other when he leaves to go to the bathroom or get a drink. You'd be surprised what they focus on. Clothes, scent, mannerisms, behavior, and speech – all of these can instantly spark interest or kill it.

These elements also can be missing the first time two people have sex with each other. Two people having sex for the first time will have a different sexual experience than two people who have known each other for years, or even two people who have had sex together for years. Remember your first time with your partner – was it comfortable? What were you thinking about? Were you thinking about your to do list or wondering he thought your thighs were fat? When your bodies rubbed against each other and caused a noise, did you wonder if he/she thought you farted? You don't need to add the question about farting into your book, but show what they are thinking. Have your character wonder if the other person likes what they are doing? Or what that moan means? They don't know each other well enough to understand the tones and this is one of the most exciting parts of a relationship. Use sex to show the closeness developing.

The number one thing to remember when writing a sex scene is that it is a lot like teaching your teenage son how to drive. You don't tell him to put the key in the ignition and turn it on. He knows that, just as your reader knows the mechanics of sex. Your job as a romance author is to use your writing tools to show the reader how the actions make the characters feel, what they are thinking, and why.

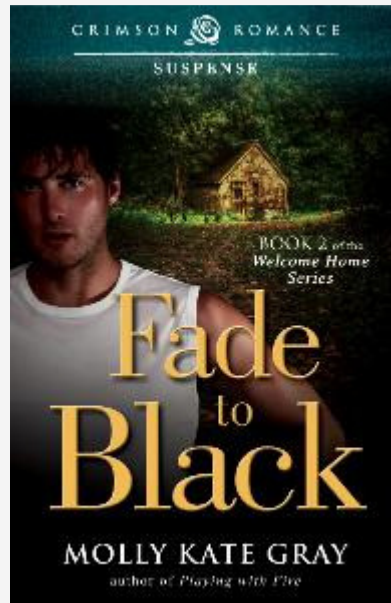
Jackie Bannon's mind works like a ping-pong ball, jumping from paranormal to science fiction and back to contemporary. Currently, she is working on a quirky women's fiction - which is a much safer way to express her spontaneity.



Pursued by his own internal and external demons, hard-edged Dom Noah Easterling must protect Emma Londyn from domestic terrorists while his agency hunts the cell's ringleaders. Emma is his sister's best friend, and keeping her at arm's length isn't easy. Tempted by her strong will and beauty, he seduces her and introduces her to his BDSM lifestyle, helping her resolve her fear of strong, dominant men.

When the terrorists locate them, Noah's best friend and fellow Dom, Ryan Lynch, joins forces with them, assisting Noah with her protection. Together, they flee across North Texas to find a safe haven. But Noah and Ryan share a past and a penchant for sharing women. They've often hoped to find one woman that would love both of them.

Could she be the answer to both their dreams?



Working undercover is nothing new for DEA Agent Rory Johnston. In the years following her sister's death, she's been involved in investigations in more high schools and colleges than she cares to count. The case in Bourland is different, though.

Not only is she supposed to find the source of the drugs on the college campus, she also has a secret assignment – find the dirty cop within the department who has been responsible for having their informants killed.

Zachary Rowllins is the officer Rory must work with in her new assignment – but for all she knows, he might be the dirty cop. When Zach is unexpectedly pulled from the case, he discovers that the corruption within the department goes much deeper than either of them suspected.

Zach finds himself in a race against time to save his partner knowing one thing – if he loses Rory, he'll lose more than just a partner. He'll lose his future as well.

January's Charm DREAM



started the year off for BIAY participants continuing every writer's dream of finishing the manuscript. But it also represents the yearning a writer has of sharing their work with others. Which takes us right into

February's charm **MADE WITH LOVE.**



No matter how much we hate the story by the ending (or editing it for the fourth time), each book we write is made with love. We're romance writers, of course our stories are about love. Wait a minute, this charm doesn't represent WHAT we write, it represents HOW we write. We *dream* about writing better. We *believe* we can write better. We *aspire* to write better.

We eat *chocolate*, pour our *love* into every word, and learn with our friends at NT (*hat, boot*). It takes more than a lucky *star* or *horseshoe* to keep us going and push to the end.

My wish for writers is to experience the personal joy of finishing your first, fiftieth, or one-hundredth story. Pushing through to the end and shouting, "This is *My Story*."

~Angi

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DECEMBER BIAIY numbers and finished books

New Words	Edited Pages	DECEMBER
707,685	4,857	Monthly Total
3,746,686	78,272	BIAIY TOTAL

CONGRATULATIONS on your FINISHED BOOKS:

- Raquel Rodrigues, DEMON HIGHLANDER
- Raquel Rodrigues, BEAUTY and the REVEAL
- Raquel Rodrigues, HIGHLANDER MOON
- Clover Autrey, HIGHLAND SHAPESHIFTER
- Michele Welsh, STRANDED AT THE RODEO, 40K
- Candy Havens, HEXED
- Candy Havens, FIJI
- Candy Havens, UNTITLED BLAZE
- Candy Havens, TAKE IT LIKE A VAMP
- Candy Havens, IRON DEMON
- Candy Havens, IRON BLOOD
- Candy Havens, LIONS, TIGERS, AND SEXY BEARS, OH MY
- Candy Havens, ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS
- Candy Havens, THE BLIND DATE
- Heather Long, COMBAT BARBIE (14k)
- Heather Long, DEADLY GENESIS (65k)
- Heather Long, EARTH WITCHES AREN'T EASY (66K re-edited)
- Roni Loren, CAUGHT UP IN YOU
- Marsha West, SECOND CHANCES (75k)
- Regina Richards, BLOOD MARRIAGE
- Jeannie Guzman, CHILD OF THE DRAGON
- Nikki Duncan, BURNED
- Nikki Duncan, A KILLER TOUCH

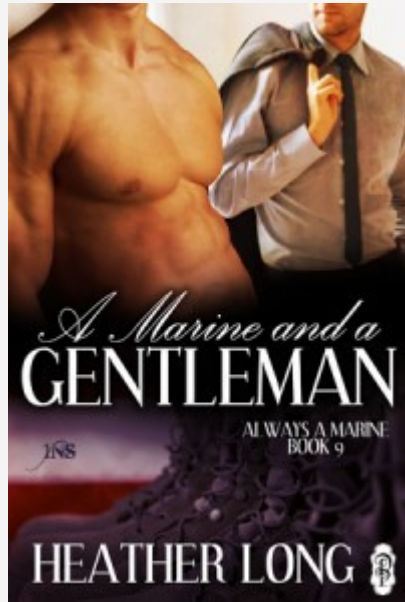
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JANUARY BIAIY numbers and finished books

New Words	Edited Pages	JANUARY
330,371	4,433	Monthly Total
4,077,057	82,705	BIAY TOTAL

CONGRATULATIONS on your FINISHED BOOKS:

Nikki Duncan, **HANDCUFFED IN HOUSEWARES**
Heather Long, **A Fistful of Dreams, Fevered Hearts #4**
Angi Morgan, **DOUBLE TAKE**
Lara Kingeter, a short story



Lieutenant Brenden Fitzpatrick is a dedicated Marine, loyal son, and devoted uncle but he's lonely. When he went Marine, the rule was don't ask, don't tell. His brothers-in-arms pretty much didn't ask and didn't care. Watching so many friends settle into long-term relationships highlighted the absence of someone to come home to in his life.

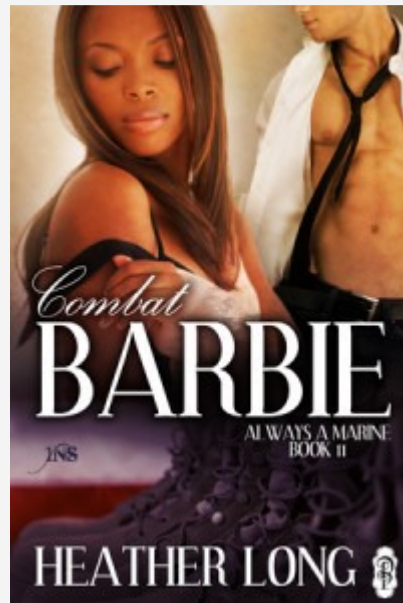
When his unit encourages him to give the 1Night Stand service a try, he asks for the impossible—a night with the one man he almost gave up the Marines for in the first place. A man he called best friend but let time and distance carry away.

Liam Gardiner grew up on the same Boston block as his best friend, Brenden. Unlike Brenden, Liam always accepted that he was gay—a fact he didn't mind flaunting to all the bullies and naysayers in school. It got his ass kicked more than once but Brenden always had his back, rescuing him time and time again, until the day Brenden left for the Marines.

He missed his buddy—the crush he never confessed, lest it

cost him the precious friendship—so when Madame Eve's invitation arrived to meet Brenden, Liam faces uncertainty for the first time.

(M/M)



You're so beautiful...

The words haunted Mary Phillips from childhood on. Her mother's love of beauty pageants included dressing her up like her own personal Barbie doll. She was the face of baby food, the darling of surfing commercials, and the exotic stunner who walked away with the Miss California title at eighteen, but she traded in her tiara and a lucrative modeling contract for combat boots and life as a Marine. She's lost good friends to IEDs and sent home more walking wounded than she cares to admit, but this Marine wouldn't trade her assignment for all the Manolo Blahniks in the world.

You're such a nerd...

Kyle Stewart heard every variation on a theme as he went through school: nerd, geek, four-eyes, weirdo—and he rolled with it. He could count on one hand the number of girls who ever deigned to talk to him about something other than tutoring. But he had the last laugh, the only self-made millionaire in his graduating class. His start up software company went huge and his private ownership netted him two hundred million dollars at sale.

A high school reunion...

Despite the invitations, Mary didn't plan to attend the ten year reunion. The last thing she wanted to hear was—"you could have been so much, what happened?" But running into Kyle at the local coffee shop reminded her that not everyone judged by appearance. Kyle once swore to rub his former tormentors noses in his success, but when the

reunion rolled around, he was reluctant. A chance meeting with the best looking girl he never could get the courage up to ask out on a date and he dares the request.

Can one night change the nerd and his combat Barbie's lives?

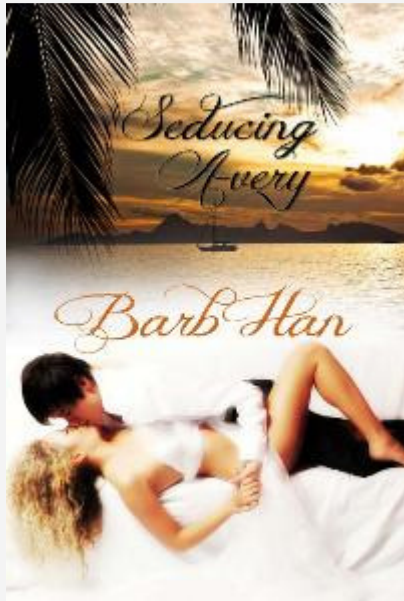
Ten Things to Remember about Facebook

By Heather Long

Facebook is a social media platform. As an author, I use it regularly to interact with other authors, readers, and friends. But as an author, I have to remember some key things when I post.

1. Your fans don't really want to know what you think. Keep your political and religious feelings to yourself, primarily because hot-button issues announced publically invites others to comment and can lead to flame wars.
2. Don't bash other people. You may have a bad moment with someone personally, don't air it in public. We all have bad days and we all have bad moments. Words hurt and what you say on Facebook, you can't take back. Remember what we learned in Kindergarten, if you don't have something nice to say—keep it to yourself.
3. Don't expect privacy on Facebook. If you post something, it's out there for the public to interpret, respond to, and share with others. We've all seen those very public meltdowns some authors have with their reviewers or in a thread started by a review. It's a train wreck, don't invite it to happen to you. If you want to be upset, do that privately—offline.
4. Don't feel like you have to be on Facebook just because everyone else is. I've seen this a lot, authors start an account, friend a lot of people and then are never around. Facebook is a tool, if you don't intend to use it, don't do it.
5. If you do want to use it, don't promote your books nonstop and discuss nothing else. If all I see in my newsfeed is promo, promo, promo it begins to feel like junk mail and I unsubscribe from the person so I don't have to see it anymore.
6. For those of us with young children, we separate our family lives from our public lives. I don't name or post pictures of my child in my Facebook stream and I avoid using products like GetGlue or FourSquare that check me in wherever I go—enough of our lives is lived out loud online, I have no interest in being stalked. And yes, it does happen.
7. Don't click on links sent to you via private message unless you are 100% positive of where they came from. Facebook provides a thumbnail of most links—if you don't see a thumbnail, don't click it. Hackers, as always, are a factor.
8. Don't play all the games and send multiple invites to your friends. I've played the games and tried to avoid that, but after awhile the amount of spam the games put into my newsfeed just killed my interest in the games so I stopped.
9. Check your Facebook regularly, interact with others and share blog posts that you think are interesting or buy links to a book you like. One, if you do it, the person you help out will notice and appreciate it and pay it forward to you later. Two, you can kick start conversations.
10. Have fun with it. Like a television show? Talk about it. Learning a new hobby? Share some fun with it. Posting it to Facebook invites others to share the fun with you.

Yes, you can get a lot of promo out of Facebook. You can reach readers and network with other authors. But remember that social media relies on you being social. Share wisely and have a good time.



Avery McAdams believes in order to truly be herself she needs to keep her head down, her guard up, and her focus on her career. Until she's hired by sexy, charismatic Ryker Li to pull off the event of the century, and he shows up personally to convince her to handle his next party. When she meets him face-to-face, she realizes a piece of her wants him to see her as attractive, which goes against everything she's convinced herself she believes.

Rich, powerful Ryker has made an art form of getting what he wants, when he wants it, and then moving on. But something about Avery makes him want to stick around.

When he finds everything he never dreamed to look for in a woman, can the billionaire playboy commit to the biggest deal of all? Or will a lifetime of mistrust and suspicion turn them forever into rivals?



How far would you go to find a child that never existed? Elizabeth Walker awakens in a mental institution, the aftermath of a nightmare in her veins. All she can think of is saving a little boy—her son. But the orderlies who rush in and jab her with needles assure her she has no son. So does her mother, who demands her doctors keep her calm and prevent her from these troubling delusions.

But Elizabeth's nightmares are so real, and her arms still feel the memory of holding her son. And her instincts tell her to trust no one. Her child is gone. Her memories are gone. Everything is just...gone.

Ex-military medic David Kerrigan will never stop blaming himself for the childhood tragedy that took his younger sister's life. Working on assignment at the facility, he's drawn to Elizabeth, and he's not sure that everything about her case is on the up and up.

David knows full well he can't change the past, but what if he can save this one person? And maybe helping Elizabeth might just save them both...

2013 Meeting Schedule

February 16 ~ Heather Long will teach a pre-writing workshop: **The Top 10 Questions To Answer Before You Write**. Designed based on Heather's method for writing and getting words on the page, come to the meeting prepared to work!

March 16 - Anniversary Party! Join us to celebrate 30 years of NTRWA with founding member Carolyn Williamson.

Future Meetings:

April: Debbie France from Barnes & Noble (subject to confirmation)

May: published author lunch (published authors sit one or two to a table, according to genre; members can sit at their genre table and ask questions about writing/getting published in that genre)

June: Sylvia Day

July: TBD

August: Clover Autrey, self-publishing workshop

September: TBD

October: TBD

November: retreat--no meeting

December: holiday party

Email questions, comments, or articles to newsletter@ntrwa.org.

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