

[View this email in your browser](#)

## A Letter from your President

May 2020

Hello NTers!!

I hope this missive finds you well.

What have you been up to for the last month of shelter-in-place?

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

randomly go shopping with my daughter, life has remained normal for us.

Recently, the Texas governor has released his plans for re-starting our local economies. So there's a chance we *could* be seeing each other in June. I think we need to skip May just to see how things progress as people venture back out into the world.

April's GetPublished! Program was great, but the rest of the offerings left a bit to be desired and that's on me. BUT! Big thanks to Priya and Jennifer for hosting virtual write-ins throughout the day and thanks to Chrissy for hosting the brainstorming session.

Next month, however, Sasha Summers will join us via ZOOM to present *Your Story Bible: Creating a workable reference to keep your characters straight, your setting rich, and your story/series on track!* starting at 11am. Prior to that, join yours truly at 10am for our GetPublished! Program—*Published... With Books*—where I'll talk about how to start your own publishing company. Invites and links to both events will be sent out closer to May 16th, our scheduled meeting date.

RWA held a Town Hall meeting on April 29th, which I had planned to attend, but then realized I'd failed to register. Apologies! But, never fear, there is a second live Town Hall—which I *have* registered for—and the first one was recorded and will be made available. I'll share any nuggets in my meeting report on the 16th.

On the other hand, Alyssa has been sending out regular reports, so at this point, y'all have as much information as I do.

Looking forward to seeing your faces on the 16th!

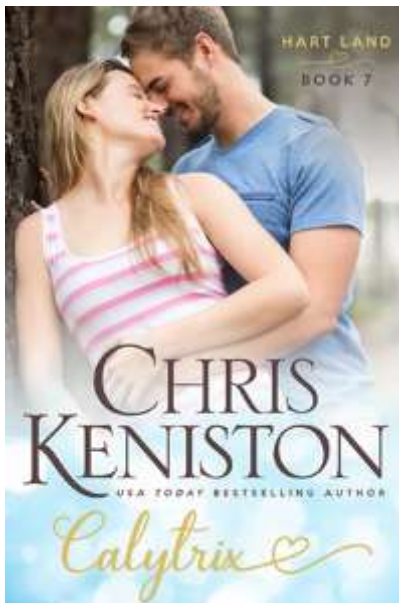
Take care—

Jen

---

## NTRWA NEWS

**Kathleen Baldwin is pleased to announce she signed a new film option for the Stranje House series with producer Beverley Gordon. This is Kathleen's third film option on this series. She's**

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

**Chris Keniston published *Calytrix* on March 25, 2020.**

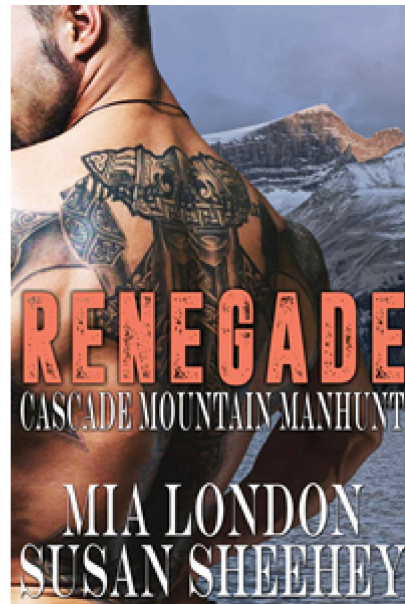
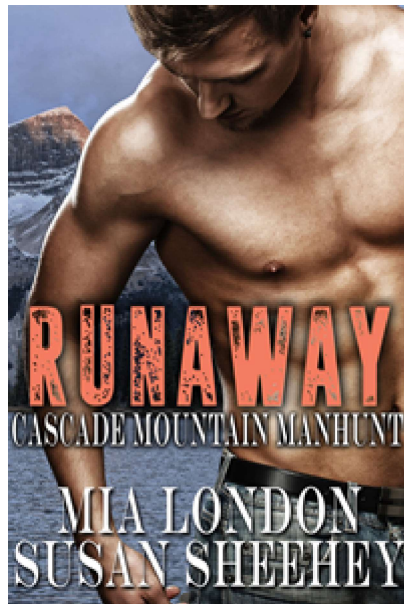


**Clover graduated college with a  
BA in English Literature and Language.**

Gina Lee Nelson's  
ten-minute play  
"Online Learning"

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

Jen FitzGerald published *Defending the Drag Queen* on May 1, 2020.



Mia London and Susan Sheehey will release two books in the Cascade Mountain Manhunt Series in May.

Runaway - Book One

Renegade - Book Two

Lynda Rees would like to announce:

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

books.

2) Her contemporary romance, *2nd Chance Ranch*, launched 4/5/20. and

3) *Hot Blooded* and *Horseshoes & Roses*, from Lynda's mystery The Bloodline Series launched audiobook versions in April, 2020.

---

### Ten Tips for Dialogue from Carolyn Rae, author of *Royal Wedding Scoop*

1. Cut the “hello, how are you” dialogue to a minimum.
2. Avoid “as you know, Bob,” comments that give reader information that the characters would already know and probably not mention to each other.
3. Use casual conversation. Most of the time, people do not use formal grammatically correct language, but a professor might. Make the character’s dialogue consistent with his or her education. Don’t have children use words a kid that age wouldn’t be familiar with.
4. Use dialect sparingly. You can have the character use it the first time he or she speaks in the story, but after that only occasionally sprinkle in a word or two. Do not use awkward phonetically spelled words. They are hard to read.
5. Use similes and metaphors characteristic with the character’s interests. A chef might say her dress was green as a spring apple. An artist might refer to a misty sky as a gray wash.
6. Use terms commonly used by the character’s gender. A woman would describe another woman’s suit as navy, worsted pinstripe, but a man would just say a navy suit. A woman would notice another woman’s French manicure, but a man would say she had nice looking nails. Men speak in shorter sentences and get right to the point, whereas a woman might lead up to something she wants to ask. A woman would pay attention to the room’s décor, but a man might only notice the rug was brown and the couch was green as he passed through it.
7. If you add introspection to dialogue for one character, only use a few lines before the next paragraph in which the other character speaks, so the reader won’t forget what the other character said earlier. Keep thoughts to simple, short sentences, which is more likely how people think. Stay in the viewpoint of one character at a time for several paragraphs so the reader will relate to that character and experience the story as that character sees and feels things.
8. Use the possessive instead of prepositional phrases. Instead of “Mary opened the last page of the book,” use “Mary turned to the book’s last page.”

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

after being asked a question, the other can say, "Well, who does know?" However, you may want to have a hero use a foreign word of endearment, which the heroine does not understand, and later have her learn the meaning and realize how much he cares for her.

10. When conveying a lot of information, don't put it all in one paragraph or one long speech. Have the other character ask questions or make comments to break up the "speech." That puts more white space on the page, making your story look easy to read.

**Watch for Carolyn Rae's next book in the Cordillera Royals Series, *Forgotten Princess*, a story of an America woman, who finds out at twenty-two, that she is a member of Cordillera royalty.**

---

On her blog this week, K.M. Weiland offered up 15 ways to be productive even if you can't make the words happen:

<https://www.helpingwritersbecomeauthors.com/productive-tasks-you-can-still-do-even-when-you-dont-feel-like-writing/>

---

## THE CUTENESS FILES



Christ Keniston's dog Boston.



[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

Hattie Quinn's cat Mimsy.



Lisa Fenley's dogs, Lilly on the left and Luca on the right.

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

Jen FitzGerald's grand-kitty Karma.



Priya Ardis's dog, Shiro.



[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

## UPCOMING MEETING INFO

Join us May 16th for our monthly gathering.

10 AM ~ GetPublished! with Jen FitzGerald presenting  
Published... With Books, how to start your own publishing company

11 AM ~ Sasha Summers will present  
Your Story Bible: Creating a workable reference to keep your characters straight, your  
settings rich, and your story/series on track!

Zoom information will be sent out closer to the meeting date.

### **Officers:**

**President: Jen FitzGerald**

**President-Elect: Celia Naples**

**Secretary: Kaylene Greenig**

**Communications: Susan Sheehey**

**Programs: C.A. Szarek**

**Contests Coordinator: Audra Lewandowski**

**Membership Director: Clover Autrey**

### **Committee Chairs:**

**PAN Liaison: C.A Szarek**

**PRO Liaison: Lisa Fenley**

**GE Contest Coordinator: Jen FitzGerald**

**Carolyn Readers Choice Coordinator:**

**Audra Lewandowski**

**Hospitality: Clover Autrey**

**Newsletter Editor: Susan Sheehey**

**Get Published! Coordinator: Lisa Fenley**

**Conference Coordinator: Audra Lewandowski**

**Bylaws Chair: Madison McCall**



Copyright © 2020 North Texas Romance Writers of America, All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

[Subscribe](#)

[Past Issues](#)

[Translate ▼](#)

