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*Diabolically Diligent. Maniacally Moral.*



Hey Everyone,

Yeah, I know the newsletter is late, but I hit a lot of bumps in the road lately. Believe it or not, my Web lady thought I sent the newsletter, and I thought she did. Sigh.

Welcome to my world is my version of a blog. No time for a daily or weekly one. Below, I've described a day of my life taken at random. Enjoy or commiserate, depending on if ya like me or not.

Recently my hubby took the wheel of the Silver Bullet (our minivan) to drive my daughter to school. We live rural on a 20-acre ranch north of San Diego. It was a dark and foggy morning, and our 3-mile long dirt road dead ends into someone's property. The dear man wasn't paying attention until I yelled ... well, it doesn't matter what I yelled. He swerved and narrowly avoided the fence. Memorial services for the hedge followed soon after.

That was the prologue. Now on to MY story. I had to make a quick trip to town (40 minutes one-way) as I had a dire emergency. I had to buy a pair of chocolate brown shoes with a kitten heel. I could drop my kid off at school, buzz to the mall, and be back in time for lunch and then to make business calls. Heavy mist rolled in and my daughter said, "I hate the fog; it scares me." I assured her I was a better and more alert driver than her dad, and she had nothing to fear from me driving in the fog. You didn't guess it. I successfully maneuvered around the fence and the hedge despite my boasting.

My mind honed in on the mall, I forgot I had to take Michaela to school. I was zipping down the road at about 55mph (I say 55 as the speed limit is 55, but if any of you have driven with me...). My daughter screeched, "Mom!" Having a split-second (as if anyone can split a second) to make a decision, I went for the turnoff. I could make the sharp cut, no problemo. Too bad I forgot I wasn't in the 'Stang or on a motorcycle. The Silver Bullet did her best, but couldn't pull it off. Isn't that neat how I can blame the van? Instead of making the turn, I skidded toward the berm. Too bad the film crew from *The Streets of San Francisco* weren't around. We slammed into the berm, but instead of stopping, we caught air. Great if I were on a bike; not so great in a minivan. The left wheel slammed down, but since my middle name is Andretti, I knew to turn into the skid. We didn't flip over, and there was no one heading at us from the other direction. Yes, I flew into the wrong side of the street. I did make a beautiful Avant garde noir stripe in the road. I'll have to design a handbag in the same pattern.

The Silver Bullet limped to the school, a minute away. I called my husband from the parking lot and he told me to get the van towed to the shop. I refused. I had an appointment at my dermatologist and I'd arrived late the last time (the eighth deadly sin-whomever wrote the other seven arrived too late to finish the list) and I refused to be late again. I made it there two minutes after my scheduled appointment, acceptable for my self-imposed five-minute cutoff time. Six minutes late, and my day is ruined.

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I then chugged to the auto shop. They assured me I'd only be there two hours, tops. Not my plan, but I could live with it. Six hours and \$950.00 later, I was hotter than I looked when I was twenty. Some of you know I have bipolar disorder. No, that doesn't mean I'm stupid enough to commute from the North Pole to the South every day-in traffic. I hadn't brought medication with me, and didn't have any lunch either. Of course, I also didn't have my checkbook. For those of you born after 1980, that was a pad of papers we once used as money when the bank was only open from 10-3. My debit card sat on my desk, as I'd paid some bills, and the cash I brought for the shoes wasn't enough. I love shoes, and have expensive ones, but I ain't never gonna spend 900 bucks on two strips of leather, no matter whose name is under my smelly foot!

My hubby arrives an hour later. He doesn't have any money on him either. So, why the heck did he come? We had to take his truck to the bank, which is a 45-minute drive, one-way. I told him to skip the bank and head for the nearest "Do it Yourself Law" shop. Or, he could take me home where I could get Betsy, my .45 Colt Taurus Titanium Revolver (plus P); or Marley, my .22 Marlin semi-automatic rifle, and he could save himself the pain of a nasty divorce. Before he could do either, we got a flat tire. Ah, the joy of the motor vehicle. What happened to riding your horse into town with your six-gun strapped to your thigh? Oh, for the good ole days. Sigh.

We made it to the bank and back to the auto shop two minutes before they locked up for the weekend. Looks like the Silver Bullet (my minivan, not the ammo I keep around in case one of those vampire novels turns out to be non-fiction instead of paranormal/fantasy) for the weekend. I went without food and medicine for so long, if Collin Ferrell offered to escort me to the Oscars as his guest, and party with him afterward, I'd have told him to take a hike. And, no, thank God, I didn't call any editors, so my career is intact. For now.

There you have it. A glimpse into the soap opera that's my life. Let me know if you're thirsty for more, or if y'all wanna read writing-related stuff exclusively. I aim to please.



### **NEW PROMO ALERT PLAN**

Everyone in this business has complaints, and I won't list mine, although I'm itchin' to! This month I'll cover booksellers, and the plan to keep 'em happy.

What's the problem? An overflow of promo items ranging from post cards to you-name-it. Where are they supposed to store all this stuff and still have room for the advanced reader copies they get? Oh, wait, that's another problem. Sometimes they can't get the advanced reader copies.

The answer is--the regional trade associations will test-drive a new program this month called *Creative Advertising and Promotional Alert*. Steve Fischer, exec direct of the New England Independent Bookseller Association finds this a widespread problem. More exec directors met at the Winter Institute to brainstorm. The goal was to come up with a system for booksellers to get the promo items they want, in proportionate quantities, and have a resource where they can view what's out there.

So, how does it work? Publishers send the lowdown on their contests, giveaways, and the promo items they have to [alert@sibaweb.com](mailto:alert@sibaweb.com) by Feb. 20th. The info is compiled and formatted into an order form to the regions who participate. This service is a freebie, and the Alert will be available the week of Feb. 25th. Great idea if the publishers will take a few minutes to "show us what they got"!

I'm for anything that improves how booksellers help promote writers. I'm interested to know how many pubbed authors have publishing house who're gonna take advantage of the Alert.... (Origin: PW)

### **MARKET MOVES**

#### Editors:

- Jessica Case at Pegasus moves a rung up the ladder from associate editor to editor.
- Annik Lafarge is leaving Bloomsbury USA for areas unknown.
- Dan Feder is movin' on up to associate editor at Doubleday Broadway.
- In March, Nancy Miller will join Harper Collins as executive editor and vice president. Nice work if you can get it.

Over at Hyperion, Brendan Duffy gets the nod. He's now an editor.

- Megan Lynch snags a senior editor position at Riverhead.

- Liz Van Hoose hangs her hat at Viking Penguin in the position of associate editor.
- The Voice imprint announces the promotion of Sarah Landis as editor.

Agents:

- New agency: kt Literary / Agent: Kate Schafer. Look the leap after nearly a decade with Janklow & Nesbit.
- Andrea Brown Literary Agency adds Jamie Weiss Chilton and Jennifer Laughran.
- Brick House Literary Agents welcomes Jenni Ferrari-Adler.
- Matthew Elblonk joins The Creative Culture.

Secret of the Month:

If you final in a contest judged by editor Hilary Sares of Kensington, send her the full even if she doesn't request it. Yeah, I know, but TRUST me.



**ROBIN MILLER NEEDS OUR HELP!**

This is not an American Christian Fiction Writers (ACFW) sponsored message. I'll be posting this info every month.

Thanks to all who participated in January. Robin made her mortgage payment for February because of you! God bless all those who contributed. Still have many months to go, so pledges and one-time gift are vital.

I received an e-mail from someone about my eBay auction. She said she was gonna pass because it sounded like a scam. *Beastly!* I'm so honest, FOX won't let me on their new show, *The Moment of Truth*. I passed their screen test, but when they realized I'll tell anyone about my sordid past, they passed on me. I don't hide nothin! For anyone who wishes more info about Robin, ACFW members can join the prayer loop, others can e-mail me privately. But I assure you, I'm smart. If I wanted to start a scam, this wouldn't be the way.

Robin Miller w/a Robin Carroll: ACFW President, Christian author, my client, my friend, my sister; needs her mortgage paid thru Dec, 2008. That's 2k a month. I'm accepting monthly pledges on her behalf in amounts from \$5.00 and up per month for 11 months. Also, one-time donations in any amount are warmly received. Send me an e-mail if you plan to help, so I can count your dollars in the monthly total. Send checks to:

Kelly Mortimer \* 52645 Paui Rd. \*Aguanga, CA 92536

Or by PayPal (but they charge a fee, so avoid, if possible): <http://www.paypal.com/> . My email is: [kelly@kellymortimer.com](mailto:kelly@kellymortimer.com)  
Username is: countrysudz

We had eight people, including myself, pledge. If all the ACFW members stepped up with ten bucks a month, we'd be there. Non-ACFW members are welcome to help as well. The Bible tells us to take care of fellow Christians BEFORE we take care of anyone else.

Robin works her heart out for ACFW, with no compensation. She has to fly out of town in March for the board meeting. That's leadership. Were we in her position, many of us would've stepped down. Not Robin. I'm proud to say I'm a follower of Robin Miller. Robin is a faithful Christian woman who needs our help. I'm supporting her. ARE YOU?

**ANYONE NEED an EDIT? GO to MY eBay AUCTION!**

Last month's winner said, "Agents and editors will never get to the heart of your work unless you draw them in with your first line. How does a writer know where that is? Top agent Kelly Mortimer's clear and concise line by line edit found my best opening (buried on page three) and trimmed away the chaff. My first chapter is now tight, powerful, and allows my voice to ring through. Any writer would benefit from the time and effort she donates for a very worthy cause." Robin Haseltine, Elements of RWA Secretary, Former Online editor, weekly columnist, and freelance writer

Thanks, for the kind words, Robin!

I'll edit the first chapter of your manuscript via e-mail. ABA or CBA. Anything but Erotica or Romantica. I'll need two weeks to go over it. All the money will go to Robin's mortgage fund, minus the fees. The minimum bid opened at \$24.99. Auction closes

Wednesday, and the current bid is \$150.00. I'll be taking two months off as I'm thrilled that agent Tamela Hancock Murray with the Hartline Agency heard about my auction, and she's takin' a turn (bless you, Tamela!). She'll do four auctions: two in March, and two in April. I'll set those up so the same information applies, except the name. I'll be back to the editing auction in May, through November. Go to [www.ebay.com](http://www.ebay.com) The auction is listed under: Kelly Mortimer, Literary Agent 1<sup>st</sup> Chapter Edit.

Any editor or agent who wishes to help Robin by editing a chapter, or an author willing to raffle an autographed book, etc., through an eBay auction, please contact me.

Please distribute this info to any loops you're on. Thanks!



## The Hot Seat

Next month I'll be interviewing a person who holds the keys to the kingdom ... a manuscript coordinator. Tell your friends to sign up for the Yeah, Write newsletter for this exclusive interview!



## Other Junk

My *Perils of Publishing* contest is over, and in the next newsletter, I'll list the winners who'll have their idea included in the book; and the Grand Prize Winner, who'll get a line edit. Stay tuned....

Here's a question for y'all. Would you like to see more than writing-related pictures on Mortimer Literary's Web page for photos? I'm willing to share more of my life, if y'all wanna see it. Lemme know at: [kmortimer@mortimerliterary.com](mailto:kmortimer@mortimerliterary.com)



## Wise Words for the Month by "The Sassy Sage"

"If ya don't risk it all, you'll never get it all." Using a term from my poker-playin' days, **I'm all in**. Won't ya join me?

Comments are welcome. Otherwise, meet ya here next month!