

From: kmortimer@mortimerliterary.com
Sent: Wednesday, August 13, 2008 8:59 PM
To:
Subject: August 13, 2008



August 13, 2008

Hello! Hope y'all had a great week. I'm pooped after only four hours sleep, but here I am, at my keyboard. In other words, get to writin'.

Noted speaker and author **Brenda Nixon** is on my blog this week. Next week, Laurie Alice Eakes takes a turn. Sign up at: www.perilsofpublishing.com

Welcome to My World

Now This Is Romance

So, last week I told y'all about the horrors (for me) of the RWA conference. This installment covers the good stuff. Unfortunately, the good things aren't funny, but what the heck? Just didn't want ya to think *everything* was gnarly.

Once I made it on the plane, I thought, I must be on the Space Mountain ride at Disneyland.... I flew Virgin America. Their planes are Phly! (No pun intended ... well, maybe.) The side lights overhead are neon amethyst, the seats are black leather (yeah, even in coach), the seatbacks are slick, pristine, white high-gloss whatever-they-make-'em-out-of (I realize I only allow my authors two such descriptive words, but I'm an agent, and this is my newsletter. Oh, the power...). Great leg room too.

They had lots of spiffy flight attendants, and I knew my other, other business (4 Gals Designs) was well on the way to making it big, cuz when I trolled down the aisle, flight attendant Brad took one look at the briefcase I made (not the one I nearly lost a thumb over), stopped me and said, "Oh my. I *love* your bag!" Sigh.

The plane arrived on time and without incident: no crashes, no turbulence, no warning of a possible water landing-what a letdown! But at least the pilot and co-pilot came out to say goodbye, although neither commented on my bag.

Hotel check-in was a breeze, unlike a few years ago at the Adam's Mark when it took two hours of waiting in line. Some genius decided to book RWA and Mary Kaye at the same

time. (*Beastly!*)

Since I was still incognito, as I was too late to register and get my name badge, two gals strollin' toward the elevator didn't know who I was. They were commenting on the ribbons on one of their badges. One gal was explaining what the PRO ribbon meant, and that she was supposed to get a better shot at an agent appointment. I asked who she booked with, and she said she couldn't get anyone. So, I got to play Santa. I whipped out a business card (from the sassy handbag I'd made in addition to the briefcase) and told her to show up fifteen minutes before my scheduled appointments, 'cause I'd be happy to see her. Man, she looked stunned. I love helping people. Sigh.

Next, I met my fantabulous roomie, Jennifer. Thank you, God. She's great. Most agents don't offer to share their room, and it wasn't until later we found we were sharin' more than that. The "Executive King Suite" not only had an open floor plan, but it only sported one bed! (I wanna know why they call it a suite when it had one room with a half-wall that hid the bed if you're in the bathroom. Sheesh.) No worries. We managed nicely.

I had a great time at the Death by Chocolate Party, even though my clients didn't win Daphnes. Yeah, I know, they were robbed.

Friday mornin' rolled around. I had no choice but to skip the showcase I wanted to attend, and go buy some shoes, drat the luck! Of course, one pair wouldn't be worth my time, so I bought three pairs (or would that be "three pair").

I loved seeing my clients at our annual Friday night dinner, as I don't get a lot of face time with them. Some also made appointments with me. Sharp!

I ran in to (well, not literally) a gaggle of gals who, boo hoo, also didn't get agent appointments. Yes, I already have too much to read, and yes, I wanted to meet with all of them anyway. Imagine spendin' all that money for a conference and not getting' an appointment. Not on my watch.

Poor Marjorie was workin' a walker, and was last to reach me. I had no time left. But wait, no obstacle can overcome "the mominator" (what daughter #3, Michaela, calls me). I asked Marjorie if she was game to put her walker into high gear and hoof it up to my room at 8:15 a.m. before my Saturday morning appointments. Think she wasn't? (In Kelly-speak, that means "yes.")

In rolls the Mighty Marjorie. I was dressed, but *sans* make-up (and the brave lady *still* came in!) I moved the desk chair in front of the bathroom door, grabbed all the stuff that makes me look human, and applied my make-up while Marjorie pitched. See, told ya I was a regular gal.

Skip to the appointment room. (No, don't really skip to the appointment room, the conference is over.) All us "industry professionals" had little tables to sit behind with are appointment lists in front of us, and empty chairs across. No way I was gonna sit there and wait. I got up and moved to the "empty-chair" side.

I memorized the prospective clients' names, and when the rigid line of hopefuls marched in with a wee bit of trepidation, I was all excited, leaning in to get a better view of the nametags. It felt like old times, when you could actually wait for your loved-one disembarking the plane to rush out into your awaiting arms-which is just what I did. I opened my arms wide and said, "There's my Esther!, My Fiona (Julie couldn't make it)!, My Mary!, My Marsha!, My Cindy!, My Barbara!, My Anne Marie!, My Sandra!" Gave each a big hug and babbled, "I'm honored you had one agent appointment, and ya chose me." (FYI: I

meant it.)

Well, as if anything could get better than that, I snagged a coveted spot on Esri Rose's "Shoe Revue." Only the coolest shoes make the cut. Yep, this proved what I'd known about me all along. I didn't crack under pressure and just settle for any old shoe. I found three gorgeous pairs (or would that be "three pair"?) in forty minutes flat (well, actually, they were heels.).

To view my spiffy pumps and read my quality quote, go to: www.elvesamongus.com. On the right top margin, click on "Shoe Revue." My foot is under the header, "And I'll take the even higher road..." I'm foot #1, of course. Sigh.

So, I make it home after another uneventful (boring) flight, and finally set foot on my piece of heaven on earth. What could be better?

My hubby (he's such a sweet man) grins and tells me to sit down, as he has a surprise for me. *Hmm*. I sit, he reaches under the couch, then jostles to hide something behind his back. *Hmm*.

He jerks his hands forward, and reveals the prize. I jump up, I scream, I shout, "Yes! Yes!" with all the joy I can muster. What was in the box my hubby (he's such a sweet man) handed me? AMMO! And I knew what was comin' next. BOO-YAH!

Then it was in my hand, in all it's titanium glory. A new Taurus, .35 caliber (+P) revolver. I know some of y'all opt for semi-automatics like the Glock and Sig, but a revolver has its place.

Recently, a nasty Iraqi terrorist hassled a local chief. The chief refused to back down, so the nasty Iraqi pulled his Glock and fired at point-blank range. Oops! The Glock jammed. The chief calmly whipped out his revolver, probably unearthed from 500 A.D., fired, and shot that nasty Iraqi, who'll never know why he didn't get a shot off with his Glock.

Still, I stood perplexed for a moment, 'cause I already have a titanium, .35 caliber Taurus revolver. *Hmm*. But wait, no bored holes in the barrel. This puppy not only fires regular bullets, it shoots, you guessed it: SNAKESHOT!

Now *that's* what I call R-O-M-A-N-C-E. My hubby really *is* a darn sweet man.

Welcome to My World. (Sigh.)

Boo-Yahs!

Client DR. Debra Holland had a radio interview today with WLW Radio in Cincinnati's Eddie Fingers and Tracey Jones talk show. Topic? Why a prominent man like John Edwards would cheat on his wife and ruin his career. [Hey, editors, have I mentioned Dr. Debra has two non-fiction proposals waitin' for y'all to snap up? No? Got Dr. John Gray endorsing...]

The Dirt

Everyone Loves the Underdog (We're countin' on it...)

First, a note: Some have showed reluctance to pre-order from Underdog's site, preferring to

wait until the books are available elsewhere. Ah, if ya don't pre-order, they won't *be* available elsewhere. We need the pre-sales to get a decent price on a print run.

I assure you, our site is ultra-safe! Our site was set-up by Gayle Link, PhD. Who knows who sets up Amazon's stuff??? As Robin remarked, "Look in the bottom right-hand corner--there's a little lock--that shows it's a secure site!" Hope that allays any fears you faithful readers have.

Big news! Underdog's second release, ***Celtic Sacrifice*** by **Sheryl Brennan** is on the site and **the new video trailer is just waitin' for ya** (thanks to the efforts of the D-lighful Dee Owens), so hop on over to watch it, then pre-order. This book is rated "A" for "Adults." ***Celtic Sacrifice*** will be in available in trade paperback, scheduled for a November release. To buy your copy, go to www.underdogpress.com

Celtic Sacrifice has to have excellent pre-sale numbers for us to forge ahead and print it. I believe no one deserves success more than Sheryl. She wants to promote every weekend as she told me, "I'm a single mother with 3 daughters. I have to save to pay for their college educations and their weddings." She touched my heart. Although this is a secular novel, Sheryl is a fine, upstandin', Jesus-lovin' woman, and she's written tasteful love scenes. You can 'visit' Sheryl at her site, www.sherylbrennan.com. Hope you'll go to our site (www.underdogpress.com) and buy her book. Now, here's a short blurb and bio. For more info, you know where to go....

"Do you know how to make the gods laugh, Ceana? Tell them of your plans."

When members of her dead mother's clan of O'Connor come to claim Ceana O'Hagan on her eighteenth birthday, she believes her destiny is clear: to marry Cian O'Connor, become a druid priestess, and restore the mystic powers of a long-lost ancestor.

Will Ceana's desire to fulfill her tribal obligations force her to give up the love of Cian, her country, and her culture, or will she refuse to become the Celtic Sacrifice the English Crown craves?

Sheryl Brennan Bio:

Historical Romance Author **Sheryl Brennan** brings the past to awe-inspiring light with her debut book ***Celtic Sacrifice***. Sheryl is not only an author, but also a mother, has a degree in business, and volunteers her time and expertise. Sheryl's writing experience ranges from journalism and corporate communications for non-profit organizations to Web content editing. She's a member of the Romance Writers of America, Celtic Hearts Romance Writers, Heart of Carolina Romance Writers, Kentucky Romance Writers, and Louisville Romance Writers. She currently lives in Louisville, Kentucky with her three beautiful daughters.

LET US NOT FORGET...

UNDERDOG PRESS is pre-selling **Robin Miller** w/a **Robin Carroll's** debut single title inspirational romantic suspense release, ***Torrents of Destruction***, is available in trade paperback and scheduled for an October release.

Short Blurb:

Raging rapids aren't the only thing causing turbulence in the lives of a river rafting guide and an undercover FBI agent ... catching criminals is as dangerous as the undercurrent of attraction they have for each other.

Torrents is an edgy Inspirational Romantic Suspense with an "E" rating (learn more about our rating system at www.underdogpress.com). We have an exciting video trailer (thanks to the efforts of the maaavelous Natalie Eggeman) for ***Torrents*** that takes just over a minute

to view (I know y'all have short attention spans). Go to our site to view the trailer at www.underdogpress.com. Visit Robin at www.robincaroll.com.

UNDERDOG PRESS needs your support to publish great work that needs a home. Please visit us at www.underdogpress.com (are ya getting' the message here, people?) and pre-order ***Torrents of Destruction*** and ***Celtic Sacrifice*** in Trade Paperback today ... this minute ... **NOW!**, even if ya don't know how to read. (A lame excuse, as you're reading this newsletter. Duh!)

Kaplan Trade Ramps Up

By Lynn Andriani -- *Publishers Weekly*

Kaplan, known for its academic and professional development titles, is expanding its [trade publishing program](#). Its new trade division, Kaplan Publishing, has acquired a new book by National Book Award winner Sherwin B. Nuland, titled *The Soul of Medicine*; the deal was done by executive editor Don Fehr, who recently joined Kaplan. Kaplan president and publisher Maureen McMahon said Nuland "represents the best of the kind of authors we at Kaplan are looking to bring on board as we expand our trade publishing operations." Nuland's book *How We Die* won the NBA in 1994.

The acquisition follows other recent announcements in Kaplan's trade publishing program, including *Almost Home*, a memoir by neonatal pediatric surgeon Christine Gleason; *Diabetes Rising* by journalist Dan Hurley; a biographer of influential surgeon William Stewart Halsted by Dr. Gerald Imber; and *Both Sides of the Law* by Alan Pfeuffer, a 20-year veteran beat cop turned DEA agent who is now a federal public defender. Michelle Patterson, executive director of marketing for Kaplan, said the house is banking on a January 2009 title, *Labor of Love* by Cara Muhlhahn, about the author's work as a midwife, to be its "first big hit."

Nielsen Wants ISBNs for Each E-Format

In their role as exclusive UK ISBN registrar, Nielsen Book has issued a statement indicating they will exclude from their database titles that use a single ISBN to represent all e-book forms of a particular. In other words, they are rejecting that practice that is currently favored by most large publishers, requiring the assignment of a different ISBN to each different electronic edition of the same title.

As quoted from the statement in the Bookseller, Nielsen notes that "we acknowledge that [publishers'] e-book initiatives to date may not have required per-format identification.... We believe that hardwiring bibliographic and identification practice to the limited requirements of current initiatives and experiments runs the risk of storing up inhibitors to future flexibility and adds potential costs of system re-engineering down the line. On these grounds, we recommend that publishers adopt the most flexible policy now on product identification."

Nielsen indicated they are "fully supportive of third-party assignment where required." [Bookseller]

The Best in SciFi

The results of the 2008 Hugo Awards, as announced at [Denvention 3](#), the 66th World Science Fiction Convention, in Denver, Colorado, USA, on August 9th 2008, are as follows:

Best Novel: *The Yiddish Policemen's Union* by Michael Chabon (HarperCollins; Fourth Estate)

- **Best Novella:** "All Seated on the Ground" by Connie Willis (*Asimov's Dec.* 2007;

Subterranean Press)

- **Best Novelette:** "The Merchant and the Alchemist's Gate" by Ted Chiang (Subterranean Press; *F&SF* Sept. 2007)
- **Best Short Story:** "Tideline" by Elizabeth Bear (*Asimov's* June 2007)
- **Best Related Book:** *Brave New Words: The Oxford Dictionary of Science Fiction* by Jeff Prucher (Oxford University Press)
- **Best Dramatic Presentation, Long Form:** *Stardust* Written by Jane Goldman and Matthew Vaughn, Based on the novel by Neil Gaiman Illustrated by Charles Vess Directed by Matthew Vaughn (Paramount Pictures)
- **Best Dramatic Presentation, Short Form:** *Doctor Who* "Blink" Written by Steven Moffat Directed by Hettie Macdonald (BBC)
- **Best Editor, Long Form:** David G. Hartwell
- **Best Editor, Short Form:** Gordon Van Gelder
- **Best Professional Artist:** Stephan Martiniere
- **Best Semiprozine:** *Locus*
- **Best Fanzine:** *File 770*
- **Best Fan Writer:** John Scalzi
- **Best Fan Artist:** Brad Foster

The winner of the John W. Campbell Award for Best New Writer, sponsored by Dell Magazines and administered on their behalf by the World Science Fiction Society, is:

- Mary Robinette Kowal [PM]

Zondervan's NASCAR support; CTI/Helmets join forces; Catholic August Bestseller List

by Daisy Maryles

Zondervan is an official sponsor of Motor Racing Outreach (MRO), a Christian organization serving the NASCAR Sprint Cup Racing Series. As official sponsor, the Christian publisher will provide books and Bibles and MRO ministers and its congregants will use Zondervan products during its chapel services and will also distribute resources to drivers, their crews, family members and fans seeking the guidance of Jesus Christ. The 30-minute MRO chapel services take place on the infield of the racetrack and features an invocation, music and a traditional sermon from an MRO minister. Said Moe Girkins, President/CEO of Zondervan: "For most Christians, Sunday is a time for church and worship, but for the men and women of NASCAR Sundays are also race day." Zondervan is also partnering with MRO on the development of a NASCAR Bible project.

Artist management firm Creative Trust, Inc. (Nashville, Tenn.), has partnered with **Kathryn A. Helmers** of Helmers Literary Services (Colorado Springs, Colo.) to form a new literary division in partnership with Kathryn A. Helmers of Helmers Literary Services (Colorado Springs, Colo.). A 30-year publishing veteran, Helmers roster of notable writers including *Blue Like Jazz* author Donald Miller and *What's So Amazing About Grace* author Philip Yancey now combines with bestselling suspense novelist Ted Dekker (*House, Adam*) and major women's author/speaker Angela Thomas (*Do You Think I'm Beautiful?*).

Anti-Obama Book: Late, But Still Page One

Four years after *Unfit for Command* helped derail John Kerry's 2004 presidential campaign, Jerome Corsi returns with *Obama Nation: Leftist Politics and the Cult of Personality*, and the *NYT* gives it page-one coverage even though it's been covered elsewhere because Jim Rutenberg and Julie Bosman checked the now-old *NYT* bestseller list that runs in this Sunday's TBR. [Does this writer know what a comma looks like?] They dub the book as the

latest example of "an effective and favored delivery system for political attacks." They also hone in on one of the paper's favorite subjects, the lack of time for proper fact checking prior to publication.

In this case, various websites are poring over *Obama Nation* and finding that several of the book's accusations, notably on whether Obama has yet to answer on whether he stopped using drugs after college, "are unsubstantiated, misleading or inaccurate."

The big payoff is when Threshold publisher Mary Matalin insists that *Obama Nation* "was not designed to be, and does not set out to be, a political book," calling it, rather, "a piece of scholarship, and a good one at that." Meanwhile [comma] author Corsi describes his "scholarship" to the *Times* this way: "The goal is to defeat Obama. I don't want Obama to be in office." [Why did I put this story in my newsletter when I normally wouldn't? For the last two lines. And NOT for the reason y'all think. I love it because the guy told the truth, take it or leave it, like it or not. Truth is, the truth.]

Muslim Award Nominee Mysteriously "Unread"

Max Malik was one of five writers shortlisted for the Muslim Writers Award (and last year's winner) but he tells the *Telegraph* that the book *The Butterfly Hunter* "was never given to the judges to read. The organisers [spell check, please!] of the awards have admitted the judges never got the chance to read the book, even though it was short-listed, but could not explain why." **[Okay, I must've missed them, doggone it! Can anyone tell me when they ran the Pentecostal Writers Awards?!?!]**

Market Moves

Editors:

Laura Geringer, publisher of the eponymous Harper Children's imprint for 17 years (and a Harper employee since 1980), "has announced her decision to leave her position" at the end of the month. [PM]

In a two-line item as part of their weekly books column, the Independent says that "rumours suggest that **Jane Friedman**, recently departed global president and CEO of HarperCollins, is about to join" Amazon. [PM]

Iris Blasi has been promoted to associate editor at Union Square Press. [PM]

At Chronicle Books, **Amy Treadwell** has been promoted to editor, Food and Drink, and Ursula Cary has been named editor in the One and Others group, moving from Simon Spotlight Entertainment. [PM]

At Yale University Press **William Frucht** has been named executive editor for political science and international relations. Frucht was most recently v-p and executive editor at Basic Books, where his authors included Nobel Laureates Frank Wilczek and Robert Laughlin, the late William F. Buckley Jr. and Lawrence Lessig. [PW]

New Imprints

Audible Highlights Indies with New Imprint

By Rachel Deahl -- *Publishers Weekly*

In partnership with the Center for Independent Publishing, Audible is launching an imprint that will showcase titles from indie publishers before they are released in print. Through Audible IndieFirst, Audible will become the exclusive audio publisher of the sort of titles that usually don't make it into the spoken-word format, releasing them as audiobooks a month prior to their print publication. The imprint launches this month with the Akashic Books title *Demons in the Spring* by Joe Meno, and plans to release at least 12 titles annually. Audible IndieFirst titles will be available at Audible.com and iTunes.

Audible has already contacted independent houses about submitting titles for audio release and has selected an early list from that batch. Forthcoming releases include the English translation of Irmga Keun's *A Child of All Nations* (Overlook Press) and, after that,

Savannah

Knoop's *Girl Boy Girl: How I Became J.T. Leroy* (Seven Stories Press).

According to Beth Anderson, Audible executive v-p and publisher, the company is interested in "really good, innovative writing" and is releasing a "range of material." Anderson added that the goal is also to introduce Audible customers to new authors. "We know our customers are avid readers, so we want to be in a position to introduce them to up-and-coming writers, writers who don't necessarily get endcaps at Barnes & Noble"--and, she added, those who might not otherwise be released in audio.

Happenings

Please e-mail your happenings info, in a format I can cut and paste, to: kmortimer@mortimerliterary.com. Type: "Happenings" in the subject line. Thanks!

[Dunno anything about this personally...]

"Authors - Want To Make Your Book An Instant Bestseller?"

Discover how on free telephone seminar Thursday, August 14th

Want to find out how one author made her book an Amazon.com, Barnes & Noble and New York Times Bestseller? Join us Thursday, August 14th for a free telephone seminar and discover the ingenious, yet simple "bestseller blueprint" you can use to sell more books in a week than most authors sell all year. It works for all types of books and costs almost nothing to implement. On the call, you'll hear from five authors who've used it to make their books bestsellers and one who sold \$184,256.00 of copies at zero cost!

To register go here now: <http://www.FreeAuthorTips.com/Call202>

Writing Opportunities

Please e-mail your writing ops info, in a format I can cut and paste, to: kmortimer@mortimerliterary.com. Type: "Writing Ops" in the subject line. Thanks!

FULL-LENGTH AND ONE-ACT PLAYS WANTED FOR PRODUCTION

The Edgemar Center for the Arts is a two-theater complex located in the Frank Gehry building in the heart of Santa Monica, with board members including Steven Spielberg, Jason Alexander, Neil Simon, Kate Capshaw, and others. The Edgemar Theater Group is our resident theatre company which is looking for NEW WORKS for the Lab Theatre Season.

We are looking for full-length and one-act plays to be included in our monthly reading of selected scripts, which may then be considered for production by the company.

We are open to all genres, comedy, and drama, including "cutting edge" works. Unpublished and unproduced plays are preferred, but we are open to plays which may have had a small run or "limited exposure."

This is a wonderful opportunity for writers to hear their works read by a group of talented actors, with the possibility of having your work produced by an established and reputable company.

TO SUBMIT:

E-mail scripts and your contact information to **Les Brandt** at:

literary@edgemarcenter.org

OR scripts can be mailed to:

The Edgemar Center

Literary Dept

2437 Main Street

Santa Monica, CA 90405

For more information on the Edgemar Center, please visit: www.edgemarcenter.org

HIGH CONCEPT ACTION/DRAMA SCRIPTS WANTED

Heitmann Entertainment - High-Concept

We are looking for completed feature-length high-concept action/drama scripts, preferably with some comedic elements, i.e. something in the vein of "The Rundown." Please note that a high-concept script should have a great title, a strong hook, and shouldn't have an overly complex plot. In addition to these elements, if your story cannot be described in one short simple sentence, it is not high concept.

Budget will not exceed \$20 million. WGA and non-WGA writers may submit.

Our credits include "The Sensei."

TO SUBMIT:

1. Please go to www.InkTippro.com/leads

2. Enter your email address (you will be signing up for InkTip's newsletter - FREE!)

3. Copy/Paste this code: **ja5g2mvpuY**

4. You will be submitting a **logline and synopsis only**, and you will be contacted to submit the full script only if there is interest from the production company.

IMPORTANT: Please ONLY submit your work if it fits what the lead is looking for EXACTLY. If you aren't sure if your submission fits, please ask **InkTip** first. Please e-mail any questions to: jerrol@inktip.com

Feature

Robin Miller Still Needs Your Help!

My client and friend, Robin Miller w/a Robin Carroll, needs your help. Her husband is unable to work, and they have three children. I'm trying to raise \$2,000 a month for the rest of the year to pay her mortgage. I'm taking monthly pledges of \$10.00 or more (now only four more payments), and gift offerings in any amount. People, we started out with four figures, and last month didn't even raise \$500. Come on; pony up the dough, already! Or, bid on one of my "Read for Robin" eBay auctions.

Our Critique Volunteer This Week...

Exciting new published author, **Julie Lessman**, will edit the winner's first 20 pages via e-mail, and offer suggestions on how to improve your work. This is a great opportunity to get your work ready for that special agent or editor you're longing to court.

Julie needs approximately 2-4 weeks to evaluate the winning bidder's submission. The minimum opening bid is \$24.99. Auction starts ... NOW! Go to <http://www.ebay.com> (after you finish reading this incredible newsletter) to bid. Type: **Author Julie Lessman 3 Chapter Edit** in the search box. All proceeds (minus fees) go the Robin Miller Mortgage Fund. Thanks!

Help! I'm a Writer
and I Can't Stop!

How to Determine If You're High-Maintenance

by Jane Freidman

For a couple months, I've been pondering an article posted on WritersDigest.com, "**Don't Be a Writing Diva**" by Mary Demuth. It offers solid, time-tested advice (meet deadlines early, do your homework, heed your editors, etc).

But let's be honest for a moment here.

This article describes **The Perfect Author**, who does not actually exist-just as the Perfect Best Friend, Perfect Lover, or Perfect Employee do not exist.

I'm not saying we shouldn't have high standards for ourselves or for others. But we're only human, and anyone in the business knows that you have good times (when it's easy to be perfect), and then you have bad times, when you show your ass.

The crucial factor is: Do you have a strong relationship that will help you survive the rough times, and can you be respectful of the other as you move through those rough times? There will be times when you have to protect your interests (or your agent will need to protect your interests), and you may need to have difficult conversations. You DO want to be a proactive author, but not a nuisance or a burden.

Here are a few questions to help determine if you're being high-maintenance.

- Does the conversation/communication revolve around YOUR needs and YOUR demands, or is it a mutually beneficial discussion, where you come together to find a solution? Remember, so much depends upon flexibility and compromise.

- Are you placing blame, pointing the finger, or making excuses? Or are you attempting to find a way to move forward, to make the future bright?
- Are you trying to force someone to agree with you, or get them to admit they've done you wrong? (Hint: That's the road to nowhere. No one likes a guilt trip or admitting they were wrong.)
- Is your thought process something like: *They're against me, they don't understand me, they're trying to cheat me?* Or can you see other perspectives? Have you understood the approach of the publisher or editor or agent? And do you understand your own role in the game (or drama, as the case might be)?

Bottom line: Your conversations-requests-questions should be and feel like part of a partnership. People inside the business love nothing better than strong author partnerships- and happy authors. We want to make you happy if we can. We know that happy authors lead to better books and lead to better sales. And of course, we all share that goal: Great books that sell. Sometimes it's helpful to be reminded we have that common goal, if different ways of achieving it.

Wise Words for the Month
by "The Sassy Sage"

"Don't wait to write your profound thoughts down; do it when ya think 'em up." [I had a great new quote I thought of while speakin' with Debra Holland this mornin', and forgot it. Sheesh!]

Until next week ... Ciao! Kelly_{rt}

[To unsubscribe because you never wanna get anywhere in the publishing industry select this link.](#)