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To:
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August 6, 2008

From the desk of Kelly Mortimer...

Another week, another newsletter. The *Welcome to My World* is long, but I think it's worth it. Hope y'all do as well. I accept all comments (even if they're negative) with grace. One thing, please don't hit "reply" and send your comments. The entire newsletter comes with your message and screws up my e-mail. Either start fresh and send to kmortimer@underdogpress.com, or hit reply, delete everything, then comment. Thanks!

I'm supposed to be on my blog this week, but the WTMW took so long, I haven't had time. I will pop in on the morrow to see if anyone has publishing-type questions they need answered.

Welcome to My World

So, *This* is Romance?

Sigh. Last week I winged my way to beautiful San Francisco for the Romance Writers of America's National Conference.

Being me, I planned way ahead of time. Overjoyed the conference was in California this year (it rotates from East, Central, West-although it takes less time to get from So Cal to Arizona than to Northern Cal), I realized I could actually avoid going on Wednesday. One extra day home. Double sigh. I guess I should clear something up. Yes, as an agent and publisher, I should wanna spend numerous days networking, but due to my bipolar disorder and numerous OCD's (I make *Monk* look like a lightweight), I have juuust a bit of trouble changing my routine.

Anyway, I booked a 5:00 p.m. flight on Thursday, front of the plane on the aisle (for a quick getaway). The flight was only 1.5 hours, so that'd give me time to get acclimated. My agent

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appointments weren't until Saturday morning, so I was set.

A few weeks later, I received an invite to the "Death by Chocolate" party. Two of my authors (Kelly Ann Riley, Terry Odell) were up for a Daphne award, and I figured I should be there. Is there such a thing as a triple sigh? So, I called my airline and changed my 5:00 flight to the 1:20 p.m. flight. Cost me \$40.00, but I could justify the expense, I guess. I gritted my teeth and whipped out my debit card. (I love the .99 cent store, Big Lots, and anywhere I can get a deal. I told my husband if I was a billionaire, I'd still shop at those places, I'd just never review what was in my cart before I got in line to pay...)

Some of you know, I have three businesses. One being *4 Gals Designs*. I'd been taking sewing lessons at night, and was hoping to finish what I call a "mini-briefcase" to show off. Technically, it's a laptop carrier, but I don't like laptops. Can't get used to the rollerball instead of the mouse. (Wonder if that would bother Monk?) The size is perfect for a partial or two, and the one I was making was so hot, it was cool.

I have to say, I'm darn good at most everything I try, but sewing? Oiy! I'm an artist. I love squiggly lines that trail off the page. If any of you sew, you know it's kinda important to cut and sew straight. In my valiant attempt, I sewed through my thumb. Literally. Needle went through my nail and out the bottom/side.

I yelled, but didn't cry. (I have a high threshold of pain.) My husband (he's such a sweet man) turned from his desk. He saw the blood and nearly fainted, then decided he had to "rush" me to the hospital for a tetanus shot. The closest hospital is an hour away, so I'd probably bleed out before arrival. Besides, we're too close to the border. In the Emergency Rooms around here, English is a second language. (Yeah, I know. But we'll save that for the blog.)

Another hospital drawback: They don't handle snakebites. Have to be airlifted to Loma Linda. Those pesky rattlers will put a major hurt on us if they ever get us before we get them. Score so far? Gun-totin' ranchers 20, rattlers 0. Sorry, I'm getting' off-track. My hubby (he's such a sweet man) froze. I told him to get his behind in gear and grab a paper towel, 'cause if I bled on the handbag he was dead meat!

Then I got revenge on my sewing machine, so to speak-I broke the needle. (No, not on another finger.) Happens when working with heavy fabric. I have all these Brother computerized machines, and I think I need commercial ones. Grrr. Exchange needle and re-thread machine lickety split. (Wonder where that phrase came from.)

I worked feverishly, doing everything I could do on my own before my next class. I always get hung up because the teacher doesn't use the instructions that go with the pattern. She's been sewing for roughly 100 years (I'm counting her time in the womb), and simply does things her way. Great ... until I go home and try to follow the instructions and cute picture diagrams. My 400-level finance classes were easier to figure out.

I was sure I'd finish the bag at my last class, the Tuesday night before I left. Nope. All these pesky problems cropped up, so I had to go it alone. No problemo. I was on the second-to-last step when I decided I needed to add a few things. I won't give you the gory details. I stayed up all night. Well, close. I went to sleep at 4:30, and got up at 6:30. Then I tried to fix all the damage I'd caused, but couldn't. I wasn't gonna be able to take the bag, and I'm not sure if my teacher can salvage it, as I used the dreaded scissors where I shouldn't have. Grrr.

Suddenly, I knew what I needed to do to feel better. I always cut and color my own hair. Not with that boxed stuff. I had to learn like the "pros". (One should never stop learning new

things. Right? I guess my thumb could answer that.) Never had a problem before. But a simple application of color couldn't overcome my feelings of d-d-defeat. A weave was in order. Didn't matter that I'd never done one; I used to get them all the time. I had bleach and a dark blond-colored dye in my supply cupboard. I even had pre-cut foil. Didn't matter that I had to catch a plane in a few hours. Go for it, gal!

So, the bleach worked, except the hair at my part was lighter than the rest. Cool. Those dark blond highlights around the face would soften the appearance of fine lines and wrinkles. Step two: I applied the dye, then looked at the time. OMGosh!

I sprinted to the closet, grabbed some clothes, and tossed everything in my suitcase like it was last night's soggy salad. Except my shoes. Sigh. Those, I lovingly wrapped with tissue and care and placed them into the bag that was made to slip inside my suitcase, all snug and safe.

Sheesh. I still had to rinse out the dye. I streaked to the shower (no wisecracks) and finished my hair. Couldn't wait to see the new color. I shoulda waited. *Orange!* Yes, orange is my favorite color, but not on my hair. Grrr. What to do? No time to use more dye, and all I had left was my hubby's (he's such a sweet man) jet-black. Talk about lookin' like a walking gothic novel! No thanks. Here's where ingenuity had to come into play. I took a minute to think up a solution. Actually, it was half a minute-thirty seconds was all I could spare.

I rummaged through my used make-up drawer and found a sponge applicator and some chocolate brown eye shadow. Perfect. My brassy orange turned into a sort of caramel color, kinda. That would get me to the beauty supply where I could pick up some non-permanent rinse. I figured I'd get to the conference and have plenty of time to implement the color change before the party. Whew. I felt better. Had to hurry. I dressed in comfy clothes, and being the smart gal I am, slipped my feet into my black mules with the kitten heels. (*Still* haven't found a pair of brown ones.) When I hit security, I could throw those suckers in the plastic box in record time and make a run for it.

My hubby (he's such a sweet man) hefted my suitcase and off we went. If we broke Mach 1, I juuust might make my flight. I was already nervous, as I wasn't flyin' out of *my* airport. O-N-T. Ontario, CA. I know where everything is there, have the security checkpoints figured out, etc. They didn't have a flight to San Fran, so we headed to San Diego Airport.

First stop: pick up the rinse. I rushed into the store, grabbed some Fanciful (never used it before, but how hard could it be?), a squirt bottle, and a pair of latex gloves, then zipped them in the outside pocket of my suitcase, and we were back in business, baby.

We pulled into the airport and it was late. I mean *late*. My flight was supposed to depart in 20 minutes. Did I give up? Think I did? No way. We cruised curbside, but couldn't find the Virgin America drop-off. Grrr. I figured I'd find it inside. My family waved goodbye, and I hustled (not the dance, although that used to be totally fun), trotted up and down, back and forth, but didn't see a counter for Virgin. Grrr. Thinking it must be upstairs, I hit the elevator. (Not literally-with my luck, I'd anger "Hal" and the darn thing would stop between floors.) I waited in anticipation for the doors to slide open. Ten minutes and counting. I smiled at the nice Transportation Safety Administration (TSA) lady and waved my boarding pass and ID at her. I glanced at the disrobing line and asked her if I'd make a 1:20 flight. She checked her watch and nodded. Great. No problemo.

I was back about four people and my Secret antiperspirant wasn't keepin' my secret. (No, I don't really use the stuff, as they've linked aluminum with Alzheimer's, but it made a good line, don't ya think?) The nice gentleman up ahead let me cut in front. (A last resort, I assure you.)

The nice TSA gentleman looked at the size of my bag, then at me. The depth of his frown wasn't a good sign. He asked if I had any liquids over 3 ounces. Drat, my rinse! He told me I'd have to ditch it, or go back and check my bag. Since I had no idea where to check it, and my flight left in eight minutes, I coughed up the bottle. I passed through the metal detector without a glitch. (I know, but the impossible happens at times) I juuust might squeak by.

Then the nice TSA lady flagged me and pulled me aside. Since I wasn't an elderly woman using a walker, nor did I have a baby with a possible explosive device in it's diaper, I figured she'd stop me. I shoulda grabbed that white towel I dry my hair with instead of concentrating on my black mules. If they thought I was from the Middle East, they probably woulda saluted me and personally escorted me aboard the plane. (Yeah, I know. But we'll save that for the blog.)

I grabbed my belongings and she gave me the favored parting words, "Don't worry; you'll make your flight." I scooted to the gate where a lone dude with a nametag reading "John John" (no, I'm not kidding) said, "Are you Kelly?" I huffed out a yes and asked if I'd missed my 1:20 flight. Yep. I glanced at my watch, which read 1:15. I looked out the window and there was the plane, just restin' up before the big flight. Unfortunately, it'd moved about three inches from the narrow hallway where passengers embark.

No problemo. I could jump it. Have I mentioned I went to the state finals in track? That was as a sprinter, but I was also nasty at the running long jump. I can see it now. Squat into position, pound the ground like a flamin' demon (or my ex mother-in-law; the second one, I think) trailed me, tap my foot on the board, and soar over the sand like I was Jonathon Livingston Seagull. Those were the good old days. Sigh.

John John crushed my dreams of glory. Even though the plane'd sit there for ten more minutes, once they moved, no cigar. He asked if I wanted to be on standby for the 5:00 flight. I answered in the affirmative, but told him he'd have to wait a minute, as I had an important errand to run. I turned and hoofed it back to the security station. I figured if I had to wait for 3.5 hours for the next flight, I might as well get my rinse back and check my bag. I had plenty of time to hunt for the elusive Virgin American counter.

I moved past the nice TSA lady who'd promised me I wouldn't miss my flight, making sure my fake smile didn't turn into a grimace. Didn't wanna lose the yogurt she let me by with in the first round. I politely asked the nice TSA gentleman for my rinse back, to which he informed me one of the janitors had just emptied his "rubbish receptacle" about one minute before I appeared. Grrr.

Dejectedly, I turned away (hey, even / have my limits) but brightened instantly. Janitor at two o'clock! It took me a minute to convince her I wasn't a nut, which proves my theory I shoulda stayed with acting. I don't speak Spanish, and she didn't speak English (no comment). She said something that kinda resembling the word "ticket" and I nodded. Not a lie, as I had no idea how close the words "hair rinse" and "ticket" were in Spanish.

I almost grabbed the latex gloves, but opted to go bare, confident in the knowledge my hubby (he's such a sweet man) put a travel-size container of hand sanitizer in my gorgeous handbag. (Yep, I made that one. Well, that was the second time I made it. The first time I crashed and burned.) I rummaged through the trash, but no rinse. Grrr.

So, I trudged back to John John, and he put me on standby. I didn't wanna contemplate what I'd do if I didn't get on the 5:00. I parked it, and did some line editing after I called Gayle Link. (I tell ya, I couldn't survive without that women. No joke. She's the life-preserver in my sea of chaos.)

I wore a light sweater, but that infamous air conditioning kicked in. (The airport personnel have to make sure all those people visiting from Antarctica stay comfortable.) With no socks on (I was wearing mules; I had no choice!) I shivered. Great. I was a freezing, angry, miserable, bipolarized (if I say it's a word, it's a word) orange-haired woman who was gonna blow out two appointments (*beastly!*) in San Fran, and might miss the party as well. Could anything else go wrong? Do I haveta answer that?

A group of six teenaged boys showed up. No biggie until they set up a movie theatre with a large-screen laptop and two speakers. I'm not sure, but they coulda been watching *Animal House*, or mayhap *Porky's*. Either way, I found it difficult to give the manuscript in my lap a decent edit.

I spotted a row of seats in the high-traffic area. There was a skylight, and a single beam of the afternoon sun shown onto the floor in a criss-cross pattern—a tiny ray of hope for warmth to the two blocks of ice I once called my humongous feet. I rushed over through like Colin Farrell was waitin' for me. What I really needed was a Xanax, but what if I fell asleep and missed the call for the flight? Couldn't risk it, so I stayed in "full manic mode." It wasn't pretty.

John John approached. He informed me that when I'd gone on standby, there were seven seats available, but now there was one left. Did I want to reserve it? I pondered why he hadn't given me that choice from the get-go (wonder where that phrase came from), but just said yes. He said it'd cost me \$25.00, and I'd have to sit in the back of the plane, center seat.

Let's recap, shall we? I'd paid for the 5:00 flight, front row, aisle seat; then paid \$40.00 to switch to the 1:20; then paid another \$25.00 to get back on my original flight, with a horrible seat. I gritted my teeth and whipped out my debit card. Grrr.

Finally, at 7:35 p.m., I made it to the Marriot, knowin' I was home free. Couldn't wait to see my clients, two of which I'd never gotten a chance to hug! Robin Haseltine and Katie Wilde. Also, Raz Steel was there, Terry Odell, Kelly Ann Riley, Debra Holland, and Janet Dean.

I had juuust enough time to unpack and jam on over to the party. Went to my executive king suite where I met my lovely and sweet roomie, Jennifer Clark Vihel (sharing a room with her was one of the highlights of my stay), and unpacked.

It couldn't be! Waves of shock shook my body. The room spun. I dove for my meds. The horror I found (or didn't find) in my suitcase threw me over the edge of the precipice. Somehow, I'd left my separately wrapped, lovingly bagged shoes on my bed at home. "Grrr" doesn't cover it. I peeked at my feet. *Black mules with a kitten heel*. Not exactly stylish enough for my RITA ceremony gown, or anything else I'd brought.

I delved deeper, praying I was blind instead of bipolar and my beautiful shoes were hiding under my large make-up bag. (Gotta disguise all those flaws.) Sigh. No never-worn red patent leather heels with matching "buttons." No black stilettos sporting tiny shoestring bows and pointy toes (they elongate the leg-oh, and don't miss my late-night chat at the ACFW conference, *Bleak to Chic: Dress for Success*). No copper metallic slingbacks ... I can't go on, it's too painful.

No, I didn't have my glorious shoes, but I did find something else of great value: three packets of "ball of the feet" gel insoles, two packs of "heel protectors," and two sets of "firming arch supports." Grrr.

Welcome to My World.

Boo-Yahs!

Janet Dean got a 4½ Star review from *Romantic Times Magazine* for her debut book, ***Courting Miss Adelaide*** (Steeple Hill Historicals, September 2008). See the review under "The Hot Seat," below.

Terry Odell's romantic suspense, ***What's in a Name?*** is a finalist in the Heart of Denver RWA chapters' Aspen Gold contest!

Terry Odell will be participating on a Panel at the RT Convention in Orlando in 2009: It's Really Not a Mystery...On How to Write a Mystery...

The Dirt

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

Big news! Underdog's second release, ***Celtic Sacrifice*** by **Sheryl Brennan** is on the site and ready for pre-sale. The cover art is there, but the video trailer won't be ready until sometime Thursday or Friday. We've changed our rating system. This book is rated "A" for "Adults." ***Celtic Sacrifice*** will be 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 all her scenes are tastefully done. You can 'visit' Sheryl at her site, <http://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. But the path becomes muddy when a mysterious stranger captures Ceana's heart as well as her body, setting an alternate course of events into motion. Dangling within the chasms of religion, duty, and newly discovered emotions, 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.

ALSO...

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

To remind ya:

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 (go to our site for our ratings key -- 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 -- www.underdogpress.com)

Here's the bottom line: 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!)

New Organization Wants to Help Romance Writers!

By Kelly Mortimer

Yay! I love it when someone tries to make a difference and sticks their neck on the block to do it (*of course* I'm included!).

Shared a few nice e-mails today with a lovely woman, Nancy Ann Rose, Co-Founder of **Romance Writers United**. I'm hoping she'll agree to an interview for next week's newsletter so we can learn more about this up-and-coming organization. Nancy was gracious enough to supply a blurb for me with lightening speed, so here it is...

"Romance Writers United is an organization for the development of a positive community, working from the philosophy of abundance as opposed to competition. Our mission is to help bridge the gap between writers of romantic fiction, agents and editors; to support, encourage and promote our authors in the pursuit of publication. Together, we can make a difference."

...Well said, my gal! Check 'em out at:

<http://rwunited.freehostia.com>
www.myspace.com/romancewritersunited

Web Site News and a Change in Submissions

Just wanted y'all to know we've uploaded some new stuff on my www.perilsofpublishing.com Web site for writers, but we'd love you to submit your favorite link or workshop handouts. We need more writers with writing-related businesses to place a free ad in our "Yellow Pages" as well.

Over at www.mortimerliterary.com, we have some changes on the "Submissions" page. No, I'm not accepting general queries, but my category wants and don't wants have changed in case I pull your initials or see ya at a conference.

Check the sites out!

Tor.com Launches

By Lynn Andriani -- *Publishers Weekly*

SF/fantasy publisher Tor Books has a new site. Tor.com, which launched at ComicCon last week, offers original content from SF/fantasy authors-both authors who are published by Tor and ones who are not-and image galleries from science fiction and fantasy artists. It also features blogs from an array of SF luminaries as well as SF/fantasy news and commentary, and registered members can interact on the site.

Patrick Nielsen Hayden, senior editor of Tor Books and Tor.com's editor-in-chief, said, "Our objective with Tor.com is to bring this vibrant community a science fiction convention that never ends."

Up on the site now are original short stories from Hugo Award-winning British SF writer Charles Stross and film critic-turned Campbell Award Winner for Best New Writer John Scalzi.

Tor.com is accepting banner ads and offering other promotional opportunities, but it is not selling books on the site.

Tor.com was active before the launch, but in a more corporate capacity, said Shannon Kerr of SSA Public Relations.

AAP Launches Editor "Buzz Webcasts"

The Association of American Publishers will start a "pilot program" of webcasts featuring editors pitching Winter 2009 books to an intended online audience of booksellers media, beginning in September. For two weeks, two editors per day (on select days) will present "upcoming titles that have inspired them" in live 30-minute webcasts. Media and booksellers can call in and ask questions. Starting September 16, the schedule features: Rebecca Saletan from Houghton Mifflin Harcourt; Tom Miller from Wiley; Bill Thomas from Doubleday; Geoff Shandler from Little, Brown; Cindy Spiegel from Spiegel & Grau; Amy Einhorn from Putnam; George Witte from St. Martin's; Eric Raab from Tor/Forge; Gillian Blake from Collins; Helen Atsma from Holt; Chuck Adams from Algonquin; and Deb Futter from Grand Central.

You register for the webcasts at: <http://publishers.webex.com>

Big Publishers Join Blog Talk Radio

By Calvin Reid -- *Publishers Weekly*

BlogTalkRadio.com, the blog and social networking site that functions like an Internet radio station, is starting to attract big trade book publishers. HarperCollins and the Hachette Book

Group are the latest publishers to set up a Blog Talk Radio site and John Wiley used BTR to feature its authors during the L.A. Book Fair.

Inspired by a family blog started by BTR Founder and former telecommunications executive Alan Levy, BTR was launched in 2006 and attracts nearly 2 million listeners a month. It provides an online platform and switchboard technology that allows users to field phone calls, upload music, and effectively run a live radio show that can be archived. The service is free to users, and makes its money by selling advertising.

While any individual can launch a BTR radio program, BTR also offers a "station" infrastructure that allows large organizations to create an online radio network around their content and their authors and creators. HarperCollins has created Authors on Air, an online network featuring Harper authors discussing their books on a variety of on-air interview shows. The station concept allows large publishers to aggregate their content and their authors and present them directly to the public in the manner of TV or broadcast facility. Such authors as Salman Rushdie, Ann Patchett, Kimbela Lawson Roby and Paulo Coelho have appeared on AOA shows. Virginia Stanley, Harper's director of library marketing, hosts a show called Library Love Fest and Authors On Air also features radio shows on romance, urban fantasy and other categories.

Wiley, Levy explained, broadcast live interviews with its authors from the L.A. Book Fair this year and simultaneously hosted the material on its on own website. Levy also pointed to new BTR stations created by Columbia Journalism School and Golf.com. In fact, Levy says BTR has so much book and author content, the site is organizing its own book channel that he hopes to launch by end of the year.

"We launch about 500 new BTR sites every day and we've broadcast over 110,000 segments since we began," said Levy. "Book and magazine publishers are taking a hard look at us. Book content just works really well on BTR."

Hollywood Starts Courting Coben (about time!)

By Rachel Deahl -- *Publishers Weekly*

Harlen Coben's thrillers have long been on the radar of producers and execs in Hollywood, but it took an unexpected hit—a French adaptation of his 1993 book *Tell No One*—to really grab the attention of Tinseltown. The movie, which bowed to strong reviews and big crowds in France when it opened there in 2006, has sparked more interest in Coben since it landed on U.S. shores. *Tell No One* opened here on July 2 and has been topping the indie box office since, proving an unexpected foreign language film hit.

Coben, who wound up optioning the book to Guillaume Canet after the French actor-turned-director approached him directly about a movie, said that there's always been a "fair amount of interest" in his work, but the success of *Tell No One* has "caused a lot of people to take a second look." (*Tell No One* is the first film that has appeared based on Coben's work, the majority of which is not under option.) A rep for Brian Lipson at Endeavor, who reps Coben for film, also confirmed that more calls are coming in about the author's work.

The movie, which has drawn a strong critical reaction in the U.S. and also had a successful run in England, has made people take notice, said Coben's agent, Lisa Vance of Aaron Priest. "When [the film] finally came here people were paying attention; now it's grown exponentially."

Talk of an American remake of *Tell No One* is also circulating—Vance said the French studio which made the film, and controls the remake rights, has gotten various studio offers. While Coben wouldn't provide specifics, saying he likes to "keep a nice arm's length" from the film deals, he did add that "a lot of stuff is happening."

St. Martin's Book Trailer Lands Among YouTube's 'Most Viewed'

By Lynn Andriani -- *Publishers Weekly*

YouTube's "most viewed" video list usually includes outrageous moments captured by amateurs along with bedroom sex tapes. So it was quite a coup when the [trailer](#) for Sherrilyn Kenyon's forthcoming book *Acheron* made it onto YouTube's "most viewed" list last week. Only one day after being posted on the site, the video trailer was viewed more than 113,000 times. A week later, that number has surged past 175,000. St. Martin's is doing all it can to keep that momentum going until the novel, a paranormal romance, goes on sale August 5 with a 350,000-copy first printing.

The video, which was produced by a Hollywood production team in conjunction with St. Martin's and Kenyon, is 33 seconds long and has elicited viewer comments such as "I cant wait to get my hands on this book" and "I am soo psyched for the book!! I pre- ordered it from Amazon." Indeed, John Karle, associate director of publicity at St. Martin's, said, "We definitely saw a spike in preorders across all online retailers."

Kenyon's fans are very active online, and St. Martin's has been building an [online marketing campaign](#) for the past year. The house sent an e-mail with a link to the video on YouTube to 90,000 people at midnight on July 20, which was preceded by teasers on July 17 and 18 announcing that something big was coming at midnight on the 20th. Zeitghost Media distributed the video across the Web, and dozens of blogs and Web sites picked it up and continue to feature it.

The book's Web site-which St. Martin's advertised in print and online-includes e-book giveaways, as well as downloads of *Acheron* wallpapers and screensavers. Additionally, the house unveiled an Ultimate Dark-Hunter Quiz game on Facebook that's also available as a desktop application. [PM] (Did I mention Robin Carroll's and Sheryl Brennan's video trailers are on YouTube?)

Simon & Schuster e-Book Royalty Proposal

Simon & Schuster is proposing an amendment to certain authors' contracts, which would set the royalty for e-books at 15 percent of the catalog retail price. The amendment was sent to a list of authors (or their agents) whose books have not yet been adapted to e-books. Simon & Schuster spokesperson Adam Rothberg said the goal is to sell more e-books in a growing market and "we want to work with our agents and author friends to do that." [PW]

The Exodus at Bloomsbury Continues ... Is There Anyone Left to Answer the Phones?

(I could use a few extra bucks...)

For most of the summer, the conventional wisdom on Bloomsbury USA was, "Well, at least they still have Colin Dickerman there."

No longer. Starting September 2nd, Mr. Dickerman-who had been serving as publisher of the house since spring-will join health/wellness publisher Rodale Books as publishing director for narrative nonfiction. He will report to his old boss Karen Rinaldi, who helped launch Bloomsbury USA in 1998 and abruptly [decamped for Rodale](#) in March.

The fact of Mr. Dickerman's hiring at Rodale-an unlikely turn of events, considering his tastes run closer to literary fiction and high-quality nonfiction than to health and fitness-suggests that the house is looking to expand its nonfiction publishing program, something its CEO, Steve Murphy, has been talking about doing for at least eight years.

But as Bloomsbury president Richard Charkin said in today's announcement, Rodale's gain is Bloomsbury's loss. Indeed, Mr. Dickerman's departure is only the latest blow

dealt to the severely troubled company, which has struggled to make ends meet since an ill-advised growth plan conceived by executives at its U.K. parent company was initiated in 2005.

Bloomsbury's U.S. operation (very different and quite separate from its much more mature U.K. counterpart) started expanding rapidly at that time, its staff growing to about 60 people and the number of books published every year substantially increased.

But by the spring of 2007, it was clear that the strategy was not working, and in January of this year, publishing director Annik LaFarge was laid off along with six other people. Others have left since then, including executive editor Gillian Blake. At this point there are, by our count, only a handful of full-time editors working there, including one who was just hired in March and another who until recently was just an assistant.

Taking over for Mr. Dickerman is George Gibson who until now has been the publisher of Walker & Company and is one of the only people within the company with any significant experience as an executive. [NY Observer]

Reader's Digest Ending Today's Best Nonfiction

by Jim Milliot -- *Publishers Weekly*

Today's Best Nonfiction, a line of books published by Reader's Digest since 1989, will cease publication in the U. S. after "Edition 102" is published in February 2009. The company's other lines of Reading Series -- Select Editions, The Best Mysteries of All Time, and The World's Best Reading in the U.S. -- continue to be published in the U.S. and worldwide and, according to a spokesperson, "remain a highly profitable part of the business." Increased competition for nonfiction readers, particularly from online retailers, had resulted in a "significant" decline in TBN's sales, the spokesperson said.

With TBN closing, RD is making several organizational changes in the Reading Series unit. Jim Menick has been named executive editor, US Reading Series, reporting to Harold Clarke, president and publisher, Books, Music and Trade Publishing in the RD Community group. Menick will succeed v-p and global editor-in-chief Laura Kelly in her U.S. responsibilities, and the global role will be eliminated. Kelly is working with Menick on the transition and will leave the company in early September. Joe McGrath, TBN's managing editor, is also leaving the company along with senior editor Barbara Clark. Gary Arpin, executive editor, Select Editions International Editions, will continue in his international role, reporting to Clarke, and will also oversee the Global Reading Series rights department, which will be led by Carol Staudter.

Today's Best Nonfiction was launched to complement the flagship direct-mail condensed fiction series, Select Editions. Over time, the editors selected and edited more than 400 nonfiction books by a diverse lineup of authors like Colin Powell, Stephen Ambrose, Christopher Reeve and Walter Isaacson.

Christian Retail Show Has Dismal Attendance

by Jana Riess

After a lackluster International Christian Retail Show one year ago in Atlanta, the CBA was clearly hoping that a return to family-friendly Orlando in 2008 (July 12-17) would mean a jump in flagging show attendance. The organizers had good reason for optimism: when the meeting was held in Orlando back in 1999, a record-breaking 14,694 people came. However, the Disney magic did not materialize at last week's trade show, with total

attendance of 7,448—the lowest numbers since the 1980s, and well off last year's already limp showing of 9,266. Professional attendance (which is mostly retailers, plus some industry professionals) was down to 2,386, 17% down from last year and about half as much as in New Orleans eight years ago.

Scaling Back, Pulling Out

"When shows die, they die quickly," said one insider, voicing the concerns of many publishers who said that the show must radically reinvent itself or it will disappear. Even on the first day—traditionally a bustling time with booth signings, giveaways, and floor events—traffic was light and the lines for many bestselling authors were only about 25 people deep. "Frankly, the traffic is extremely low," said Michael Thomson, sales director at Eerdmans. "We have done some good orders, but they're mostly orders we would have done anyhow."

Order-writing was rare, as has increasingly been the case at ICRS. As Kim Shimer, marketing director for Judson, said, "we've grown to realize this show isn't about selling anymore. We've had to mentally prepare not to make a profit. For the visibility and networking, it's just something we've got to do." Still, Judson is considering a cutback from two booth spaces to one next year.

A number of publishers have already scaled back their booths. At NavPress, trade marketing strategist Jessica Chappell reported that the booth was 20' by 20' this year, compared to last year's 20' by 40'. She saw the smaller booth as a positive, however. NavPress equipped it with a comfy couch, a coffee table and some conversation areas to facilitate greater intimacy with customers. [PM]

Nelson Ain't Havin' None

Don't expect Thomas Nelson to change their policy about reducing trade show expenses any time soon. After bowing out of BEA and the annual CBA show, the company's Spanish division Grupo Nelson announced that it will pull out of the Spanish Christian Book Fairs known as Expolit (Miami) and Expo Cristiana (Mexico). Publisher Larry Downs says: "New market trends are forcing us to re-evaluate the expenditure of every marketing dollar; consequently, we have determined that, for Grupo Nelson, these trade shows provide very little return on a very significant investment. Historically, trade shows have played an important role in publishing and bookselling. Today the communication flow is constant, and we can no longer justify the enormous costs associated with these events." [PM]

Annd the Survey Said...

A survey conducted at BEA by Zogby International for Random House sought information about the book-buying habits on Americans. Pollsters surveyed 8000 adults. Among their findings:

82% said they prefer to curl up with a printed book over using the latest in reading technology. Women (85%) are more likely than men (79%) to say they prefer reading printed books. Reading printed books also has greater appeal among older respondents, although it is by far the preferred method among all age groups.

11% of respondents said they are comfortable reading books in other formats, such as online or with an e-book reader or PDA. Men (13%) are more open than women (8%) to reading books in other formats, as are 13% of those younger than age 30, compared to just 6% of those age 65 and older.

43% of respondents said they "somewhat often" head to the bookstore with a specific book

in mind, while nearly as many (38%) "very often" head to a bookstore with a particular book in mind.

77% said that when they go into a bookstore for a specific book, they sometimes make additional, unplanned book purchases.

For 48%, the first thing that draws them to a book while browsing in a bookstore is the subject, followed by the author (24%) and the book's title (11%).

When asked about their most recent book purchase, 43% said the book's subject was the most important factor, followed by the author (29%) and a good recommendation or word of mouth (11%).

When asked what makes them want to buy a book, 60% said suggestions from friends and family members, while nearly half (49%) said they are influenced by book reviews.

You can read all about the survey at: <http://www.zogby.com/news/ReadNews.dbm?ID=1513> [PM]

Experts find theatre where Shakespeare plays first staged

The remains of a London theatre where William Shakespeare's early plays including *Romeo and Juliet* were first performed have been discovered by archaeologists, a museum said Wednesday.

Shakespeare appeared at The Theatre in Shoreditch, east London, as an actor with a troupe called "The Lord Chamberlain's Men," which also performed his efforts as a playwright there.

Richard III, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and *The Merchant of Venice* are among the other plays which are likely to have premiered at the theatre, according to the Museum of London, whose team made the discovery.

After a tenancy dispute in 1599, the owners of The Theatre dismantled it during the night and its timbers were used to construct the Globe Theatre by the [River Thames](#), which became the home of [Shakespeare's plays](#).

But now Museum of London archaeologists have rediscovered the original footings or groundwork of the octagonal Shoreditch venue -- ironically on a site being prepared for the construction of a new theatre.

"It's a theatre that's been known about for a long time but no remains have ever been found," museum spokesman Tim Morley told AFP.

"This is the theatre that the company of players that Shakespeare was part of first performed in and when he started writing, the company would have performed his plays."

It is planned that the remains will be preserved on the site.

Jeff Kelly, chairman of the Tower Theatre Company, which is building the new theatre on the site, added: "The discovery that we shall be building a 21st century playhouse where Shakespeare played and where some of Shakespeare's plays must first have been performed is a huge inspiration." [AFP]

Got Lists?

As a matter of fact, I do. These are direct mail lists valuable to e-pub and self-published authors, or anyone handling their publicity. All lists are Excel. Here's what I have:

- 585 Libraries List w/Contact Info, Including Budgets (Cost around \$900)
- 202 Romance-Friendly Bookstores
- 100 Library Addresses by State
- 72 Bookstore List of What Promo Items They Want
- 54 Headquarters of Independent Bookstores
- 31 Reader's Groups
- 18 National Book Buyers List (Books a Million, Borders, etc.)
- And a Partridge in a Pear Tree (that'll cost ya extra)

I'll e-mail you all seven lists for a measly \$50.00. What a deal! E-mail me with your request and send a check to:

Kelly Mortimer * 52645 Paui Road * Aguanga, CA 92536

Market Moves

EDITORS:

Geoffrey Stone has joined Running Press as an editor, focusing on the cookbook program. He was editor-in-chief at Rutledge Hill/Thomas Nelson. [PM]

At Counterpoint, **Laura Mazer** has been named managing editor.

New Imprints

Abrams Adds A Line

At Comic-Con Abrams announced the addition of the Abrams ComicArts imprint, launching in spring 2009, and starting with 10 to 15 books a year. It will focus on "books about the legends and history of comic arts as well as new graphic novels and other cartoon-based material." It will be overseen by Abrams publisher Steve Tager and executive editor Charles Kochman.

Blue Mountain Arts Forms Separate Book Division

By Lynn Andriani -- *Publishers Weekly*

Blue Mountain Arts, publisher of cards, books, calendars and gift items, has formed a dedicated book division that will focus solely on publishing, marketing and selling a line of books and calendars. Frank Masek, who has more than 15 years of publishing experience, most recently at Abrams, will head up sales for the division, while Patti Wayant, who has been editorial manager at Blue Mountain for nearly 25 years, will run editorial and art. Masek said that in the past Blue Mountain published books sporadically. But successes over the years-most notably *To My Daughter With Love*, an inspirational tome by Susan Polis Schutz that sold more than 1.5 million copies-spurred the company to build an official, separate publishing program. "It's time to start building upon that tradition and go forward with a publishing program that publishes books in a consistent manner," said Masek. Blue Mountain Books will release six to eight titles in spring 2009, 10 to 15 titles in fall 2009, and 24 to 36 titles in 2010.

Blue Mountain has its own warehouse and distribution, but, said Masek, "We're looking forward to bringing on some commissioned rep groups and increase independent store distribution, in addition to bringing on a new Canadian wholesale distributor." In 2009, Blue Mountain will try to expand internationally and will attend the Frankfurt Book Fair. The books will continue along the lines of the books Blue Mountain has previously published: family, relationships, personal growth, books for teens/tweens and poetry gift books.

Medallion Press Adds Nonfiction

by Claire Kirch

St. Charles, Ill.-based Medallion Press, best known for their romance fiction list, has announced that it is launching a nonfiction line. The new imprint will focus upon motivational and self-help titles, as well as autobiography and memoir.

The debut release in Medallion's nonfiction line will be a memoir by Dawn Schiller, *The Road Through Wonderland*, which will delve into her relationship with porn star John Holmes and its impact upon her life. Actor Val Kilmer, who plays John Holmes in the film *The Wonderland Murders* (Lion's Gate 2003), and actress Kate Bosworth, who plays Schiller opposite Kilmer, will both contribute a foreword to the book, scheduled for release in August 2010.

Wonderland will be followed in November 2010 by an as-yet-untitled memoir by Medallion publisher and historical romance author Helen Rosburg, and in January 2011 a motivational book by Staci Boyer, an award-winning master personal trainer and fitness educator. Medallion titles are distributed to the trade by IPG.

New Random UK Imprint

Random House UK's CHA division will start Windmill Books, a literary paperback line drawing from the Heinemann and Hutchinson hardcover programs. Like the Arrow paperback line, the new imprint will be under publishing director Kate Elton, and aims to issue about 20 titles a year, comprising both nonfiction and fiction. Authors already published through CHA's Vintage and Arrow will stay with their existing imprint. But CHA managing director Susan Sandon calls the new line "a key plank in CHA's growth strategy." [PW]

Contests

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

From Gayle Link:

Operation First Book 2008: A competition for Christian non-fiction writers.

- \$10K first prize (Harvest House reserves the right to publish the grand prize winning entry and pay a \$10k advance against royalties)
- No cost to enter, but must be a member of the Christian Writers Guild
- Deadline to join the Christian Writer's Guild: September 3, 2008
- Deadline to Enter Non-Fiction Proposal: September 17, 2008
- Winner Announced: February 9, 2009

For complete set of rules and information go to:
<http://christianwritersguild.com/firstbookcontest.asp>

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!

Wally Lamb to Keynote 'PW' Writers Conference

Publishers Weekly will hold a one-day seminar September 22 on the campus of NYU aimed at explaining the publishing business to would-be authors. "Book Publishing 101" will begin with a keynote by Wally Lamb, author of the bestseller *She's Come Undone* and the forthcoming *The Hour I First Believed*, and will be followed by a series of panels that will examine all aspects of publishing and how authors get published. Sessions will feature authors, agents, publishers as well as members of the *PW* staff. *PW* editor-in chief Sara Nelson said the event, "will provide an opportunity for writers and others passionate about books to learn from experts about what gets published and why."

The day-long seminar, which is being sponsored by NYU and the NYU Center for Publishing, will be \$345 and NYU students will get a 25% discount. For early registrants, *PW* will accept and read 10-page book proposals or manuscripts; materials must be sent before August 22. For more information on the conference or to register, go to www.publishersweekly.com/pub101.

The 4th Annual HOLLYSHORTS FILM FESTIVAL: August 7-10, 2008

In Hollywood, CA

HollyShorts Film Festival is an annual short film festival showcasing the best and brightest short films from around the globe, devoted to the advancement filmmakers through screenings, Q&A sessions and networking events.

OPENING NIGHT: THURSDAY, AUGUST 7th

A marquee Opening Night Celebration featuring a number of high profile short film projects takes place at the Egyptian Theatre in conjunction with the American Cinematheque, and will feature director Bill Purple's short film *Hole in the Paper Sky*, which stars Jessica Biel (*I Now Pronounce You Chuck and Larry*), and Gary Marshall (*The Other Sister*); Wireimage co-founder Jeff Vespa's short *Nosebleed*, which stars David Arquette (*Scream*) and director Alex Ferrari's short film *Red Princess Blues Animated: The Book of Violence* voiced by Paula Garces (*Harold & Kumar*). The event will also showcase the Hollywood premiere of actor Josh Brolin's (*No Country For Old Men*, *American Gangster*) short film *X*.

The HollyShorts opening night celebration will also feature the Hollywood premiere of actor Larry Hankin's (*Friends*) short film *The Outlaw Emmett Deemus* and director/radio personality Marty Keegan's Award-winning short film *Verboten*. A reception sponsored by The Margarita King will follow the screenings.

MUSIC VIDEOS & INTERNATIONAL SHORTS - FRIDAY, AUGUST 8TH
 7pm - 11pm at Nacional, 1645 Wilcox Ave., Hollywood, CA 90028

Our Music Video and International Short Film Showcase will be hosted by LATV's VJ Viviana Vigil.

To RSVP for our Music Video Friday night, email your first and last name, and if you will be bringing a guest, to: RSVP@hollyshorts.com

SHORT FILM SHOWCASE SATURDAY & SUNDAY, AUGUST 9th - 10th

10am - 7:30pm

HollyShorts Film Festival will feature a two-day, action-packed showcase of 58 short films. Details on the film lineup and times are available on the website at: www.hollyshorts.com

CREATIVE & BUSINESS PANELS

In addition to the film screenings, there will be a *Creative Panel* and a *Business Panel* to take place at Laemmle's Sunset 5 - the panels are included with each Day Pass:

Saturday, August 9th, 2008 at 3:30pm:

"*Can You Make A Profitable Movie Independently?*"

Panelists include:

Jessy Terrero

Mark Fergus (writer IRON MAN)

Jaime Linden (writer WE ARE MARSHALL)

Sunday, August 10th, 2008 at 3:50pm

"*The Short Film today: Platform for Feature film?*"

Panelists TBA, moderated by Elliot Kotec of Moving Pictures Magazine

CLOSING NIGHT PARTY SUNDAY, AUGUST 10th

8pm - 2am at SUSHI DAN (next to Laemmle's Sunset 5)

HollyShorts guests will get 15% off food and 50% off drinks at SUSHI DAN all weekend! (Just show your HollyShorts ticket).

The main festival and panels will take place at:

Laemmle's Sunset 5

8000 Sunset Blvd

Hollywood, CA 90046

TO PURCHASE TICKETS FOR OPENING NIGHT:

Tickets for the Opening Night Celebration can be purchased at:

[www.fandango.com/egyptiantheatre_aaofx/theaterpage?](http://www.fandango.com/egyptiantheatre_aaofx/theaterpage?wssac=58&wssaffid=11568_AmericanCinemathequeWebsite)

[wssac=58&wssaffid=11568_AmericanCinemathequeWebsite](http://www.fandango.com/egyptiantheatre_aaofx/theaterpage?wssac=58&wssaffid=11568_AmericanCinemathequeWebsite)

(Choose Thursday, August 7th from the pull-down menu, and then click on the red 7:30 showtime for Hollyshorts!)

Writers TeleSummit 2008

By Cynthia Sterling

Twenty-four amazing speakers will present their best thoughts to help with your writing career. The best part -- you don't have to travel at all. Acclaimed author and creativity coach, Eric Maisel, PhD., has arranged what may be the best writers conference ever, to be held as a teleconference and web streaming event from September 4 -September 7, 2008. You can find all the details at: (<http://www.1shoppingcart.com/app/aftrack.asp?afid=781318>)

The Writers TeleSummit features 24 world-class professionals in the field. Accomplished

authors, agents, publishers, all at your disposal for four days. The cost is \$295 -- a fraction of the cost of any other kind of conference of this caliber. All calls are professionally recorded and available for play back and download. Your registration includes audio downloads of all 24 keynote addresses for the entire four day conference. That's 24-hours of inspiring audio available as in MP3 format included in the low cost of registering. There is also an option for having CD's of all events sent to your door.

There are several great gifts that are yours to keep when you register. You'll get four lessons from Eric Maisel's popular Coaching Writers Training, lessons that you can't get anywhere else. If you wanted them, you would have to pay more than the cost of The Writers Telesummit to join the training. You get them free when you sign up. You'll also get three professional tips from each presenter, that's 72 tips to jump-start our writing/creative careers before the conference even begins. And if you are in the first 50 people to register, you get a free copy of Eric Maisel's E Book "The Power of Sleep Thinking." I hope you will check it out at: <http://www.1shoppingcart.com>

HANG TEN! 3-DAY WRITERS WORKSHOP & CONTEST

with Ken Rotcop & Devo Cutler-Rubenstein
Win a contract with a top Hollywood Literary Agent!

August 8th-10th, 2008 at
The Writers Store
2040 Westwood Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90025
(800) 272-8927

PLUS FREE "FIRST TEN PAGES" SEMINAR!

Ken Rotcop and Devo Cutler-Rubenstein have both been STAR Speakers during multiple years at Creative Screenwriting's Screenwriting Expo. Both are award-winning Writers/Producers and former Studio Execs. Ken Rotcop is the author of "The Perfect Pitch" and lecturer on his DVD "Let's Sell Your Script!" and Devo Cutler-Rubenstein penned "What's the Big Idea? Writing the Short Film." These two legendary instructors have the knowledge and the contest to help YOU get represented. This seminar and contest will take you there!

HERE'S WHAT HANG TEN! IS ALL ABOUT

- * What are the most important pages of your screenplay? Producers will tell you it's the first ten. And so, this contest and seminar will cover the FIRST TEN PAGES ONLY!
- * 3-Day Writing Contest - That's right! This is the first contest where you know the winner by the end of the workshop
- * To the winner goes a one-year contract with a top Hollywood Literary Agent
- * Runner up winners will receive Books and DVD's
- * ALL members of the workshop will have a FREE Consultation with Ken or Devo!
- * This 3-Day Intensive Workshop will cover every ASPECT of script writing for motion pictures and Television.

Dates and Times:

Friday, August 8th: 7pm-10pm

Saturday, August 9th: 10am to 5pm

Sunday, August 10th: 10am to noon (Winner announced and party!)

GET PREPARED FOR THE CONTEST WITH A FREE FIRST 10-PAGES SEMINAR

Saturday, Aug. 2nd 11:00am - 12:00pm at The Writers Store

Come meet Ken and Devo, learn about your first 10 pages, and have a week to perfect them before the contest and workshop! Not entering the contest or workshop? Come by anyway, pick up a free script (one per person) and learn how to grab a reader's attention and make them want to *keep on reading!*

Writing Opportunities

SCRIPTS WANTED - 5 LOCATIONS OR LESS, WITH COMMERCIAL APPEAL

Silverision Films - Commercial Appeal

We are looking for completed feature-length scripts that take place in five or fewer locations, and that are written with commercial appeal.

For clarification, a location is NOT a city. A location is one place in a city, desert or wherever, that a scene is shot. For example, if several scenes take place in a park, but are on opposite ends of the park, the crew has to load and unload filming equipment. Thus, the park would be considered several locations. However, if several scenes take place in different rooms of a mansion, this would be considered one location. The crew are not required to pack everything up etc. All they need to do is carry the equipment to the next room.

We are open to a variety of genres as long as the script is contained. When submitting, please explain why you think your script is commercial in the personal message space - any submissions without this pitch will be discarded. We are open to submissions from WGA and non-WGA writers, although we do prefer submissions from guild members, so if you're a WGA member, please state as such in the personal message space. Also, please do not resubmit a script that has already been pitched to us in the past.

WGA and non-WGA writers may submit. Budget will not exceed \$700K.

Our credits include various episodes of the PBS miniseries *Sonidos del Barrio*. Commercials and Music Videos.

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: 9wsbx49485
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 Caroll, 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. Or, bid on one of my "Read for Robin" eBay auctions.

Our Editor Volunteer ...

Anne Heltzel of Penguin will read the winner's first three chapters via e-mail, and offer suggestions on how to improve your work. As usual, if she wants to buy your manuscript, I'll be representing you, so you'll be stuck with both of us.

Anne's interested in seeing middle grade or YA fiction with a quirky, distinctive voice. Either literary or commercial is okay, as long as the characters feel complex and three-dimensional. Please, no YA historical fiction or sci-fi. She needs approximately 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: **Editor Anne Heltzel 3 Chapter Edit** in the search box. All proceeds (minus fees) go the Robin Miller Mortgage Fund. Thanks!

The Hot Seat

Interview with author and Editor-In-Chief of *Christian Fiction Online* magazine, **Michelle Sutton**

Q- Congratulations on your upcoming Inspirational Young Adult release, *It's Not About Me* (Sheaf House, September 2008). Can you tell us about the book and the inspiration behind it?

A- Actually, the story came to me because of a friendship I had with a woman from my church in Phoenix. The same thing happened to her when she was alone in the church office, but she was a middle-aged married woman and not a young lady like Annie in my story. No, no ne raped her. Too predictable. But that was where the premise for my story came from. I asked myself, "What would happen if a girl with a perfect life had a tsunami of pain hit her when she least expected it? How would that shake out and where will she end up in regard to love, faith, independence, self-worth?"

Q- Do you have any spare time? If you do, how do you spend it?

Yes, I do hang with the "normals." (Obviously, she ain't hangin out with me. Sorry.) I do stuff with friends, my family, and church family. I also go to rodeos, take walks, have picnics, go to lunch, go to parties ... all kinds of things.

Q- Writing isn't your full-time job yet, is it? What can we find you doing when you're not working away on a manuscript?

A- I work full-time for the Arizona State Government as a social worker.

Q- Why did you choose a small press to publish your book?

A- I went with Sheaf House (www.sheafhouse.com) because I didn't want to change who I was as an author just to sell a book. I love edgy fiction, I write it, and I'm gonna sell it. I'm just glad Sheaf House gave me a chance to do that.

Q- You label yourself as a writer of Edgy Inspirational Fiction. What does that mean to you?

A- I'm too Christian for the ABA, and too edgy for the CBA. I write realistic situations that people find themselves in ... even Christians. I show how people really feel and think when they're in those situations, and it's not always righteous. My characters make bad choices sometimes, and they have to live with the consequences. That's how real life is. I think people can learn from reading about other people's mistakes, just like younger siblings learn from older siblings' mistakes. I hope to prepare people for those sticky situations, so if they find themselves in the same place, they'll make a better choice than some of my characters did.

Q- Do you have a mentor, someone in particular whom you credit for helping you grow as a writer?

A- Too many people to count. Seriously, I have three full pages of acknowledgments in my book. One section for authors, another for writers, friends, experts I consulted with, then church family and bio family. I broke it down into categories so people could find their name easier.

Q- What do you have coming up?

A- I have a blog tour with CFBA scheduled for Oct 1-3, and am hoping to have my book, *It's Not About Me*, selected for the book club, as Oct is YA month.

Q- You're the editor-in-chief of the new *Christian Fiction Online* magazine. Can you tell us a little bit about that?

A- Bonnie Calhoun founded the magazine. She owns the Christian Fiction Blog Alliance. She wanted to expand and asked me to be the Editor-in-Chief due to my industry-wide contacts and "stamina." She told me she knew I'd have a lot of ideas and I'd work hard. So we both prayed about it and felt confirmation that it was something God called me to do. Within two days, I had thirty columnists lined up, as well as topics, etc. The rest is history. ☺

Q- Parting advice for those still striving toward publication?

Hang in there. It's worth it in the end. Oh, and what goes around comes around. Help your fellow writer, because someday they might help you too.

... See a review below.

Worth Reading

Courting Miss Adelaide by Janet Dean

Steeple Hill Love Inspired Historical (September 2008)

Yay! My client **Janet Dean** got a **4½ Star review** from *Romantic Times* Magazine for her debut book, ***Courting Miss Adelaide***

Here's the review:

"Adelaide Crum wants more than anything to adopt a child from the orphan train, so she's heartbroken when the committee deems her unsuitable because she's a single woman. Soon a twist of fate makes Adelaide and committee member Charles Graves, the only one who believes she'd make a great mom, owners of the newspaper that Charles edits. They become friends, which brings with it more ups and downs than the printing press. When one of the adoptive mothers pleads with the committee to let Adelaide temporarily keep her

daughter Emma, Adelaide is thrilled her wish is finally coming true. Will she be able to cope with a child and run her business? Can she and Charles have a future together? Janet Dean's *Courting Miss Adelaide* (4.5) is a wonderfully sweet love story that includes facts about the orphan trains of the 1800s."

-Patsy Glans

... You can pre-order a copy of *Courting Miss Adelaide* at www.amazon.com today!

It's Not About Me by Michelle Sutton

Sheaf House - Inspirational Young Adult (September 2008)

Here's the review:

"***It's Not About Me*** is **Michelle Sutton's** debut novel, and if it's anything to go on, her books will become must-reads in our house.

Michelle is among a growing group of authors who describe their writing as edgy. They push the envelope and deal with topics most of us don't want to think about. This particular book deals with pre-marital sex, assault, alcohol, and teenage pregnancy, but not in a gratuitous way. Rather, it identifies with these issues and handles them in a way which glorifies God.

Because of its wider application and skillful approach to relevant topics, I definitely give *It's Not About Me* **four stars**. Well done."

-Lee Franklin, Guest Reviewer, About.com

...You can pre-order a copy of *It's Not About Me* at www.amazon.com today!

Wise Words for the Month
by "The Sassy Sage"

"Whatever you're doin', don't 'tap out.'" (If you don't know what that means, find out....)

Have a great rest of the week; I'll miss ya!

Smiles,
Kelly

[To unsubscribe because you have no desire to succeed in the literary field select this link.](#)