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Diabolically Diligent. Maniacally Moral.

No. 3 / March 2008



 Welcome to My World

The popular vote said more "*Welcome to My World*," so here you go. Just so ya know, this is my newsletter, and I don't strive for political correctness, neither do I strive to hurt anyone's feelings.

WARNING:

Agnostics: Don't read this if you wanna remain undecided.

Atheists: Try to come up with a reasonable explanation, and if you do, I'm all ears (not literally).

Christians: Sometimes we're the worst. Oh ye of little faith, this might help ya to take the Bible, ah, literally.

Silver Bullet Slams Snow

"Beware the Ides of March." Okay, so this happened mid-February, but I've always wanted to use that line. My daughter Michaela caught that nasty flu bug, then it felled my hubby. I told Satan I had no time to get sick, and so, avoided the catastrophe.

Woke to a typical day in So. Cal. at 4400 feet. The tips of orange sun rays shot from the top of Beauty Mountain and pointed to the clouds. By the time Michaela left for school, we had a light rain, and a few snowflakes. I told her to grab her heavy jacket, but my hubby assured me the Online weather site foretold the day would be "mostly sunny," so the hoodie she wore would be fine. Okie dokie. I had a class at 1:00, so I got started on my morning agenting stuff.

Several hours later, I left my mountaintop ranch with snow pelting my windshield. Hmm. Could the Internet be in error? Since I doubt God updates the weather page, yep, it could. I wished I had time to call Al Gore to tell him Global Warming was alive and well in So. Cal., (these are the coldest temps the West has had in 180 years) but I'd paid for that class, and I didn't wanna be late.

By 3:00, my hubby interrupted my class twice with grim news about the freak blizzard. The county closed our two-lane highway due to a nasty accident, and he didn't know how I'd get thru. He'd just got past before the paramedics arrived. I attempted to allay his fears. Fruitless. Men and their hysterics, honestly!

His third call alarmed me. He was clearly in distress: out of breath, gasping for air. To get to our land one needs to drive up a steady incline on a dirt road for approximately half a mile, then scoot another quarter mile up our steep dirt driveway.

John relayed over a foot of snow covered the ground, and he and Michaela had to trudge a long stretch, as his 4x4 couldn't make it. Poor Michaela. Thin jacket, trendy tennis shoes. My hubby was still sick (which explained his breathing problem) and couldn't carry her. He begged me to drive to Riverside and stay at his parent's house, 'cause there was no way I'd make it home.

I refused. No, I don't have a death-wish, not anymore, anyway, but that's for another column. With my bipolar disorder, I need routine. Didn't wanna sleep in an unfamiliar room, knowing my dog wasn't curled up on the floor parallel to me ... oh, and John wouldn't be there either.

Nope--I'm out of my comfort zone when my day-to-day activities differ. I hate weekends. Five days of status quo destroyed in one fell swoop. I'm the only human I know of who looks forward to Mondays. You can imagine how much fun conferences are for me! Strange bed, chaotic schedule, no sleep, crowds. Okay, my skin is crawling, time to move on.

John said to make it as far as my minivan, the Silver Bullet, could take me, then he wanted me to call the house and he and Michaela would traipse down to meet me and escort me home, ensuring I didn't fall into the snow, lie down, and pass into a pleasant slumber I'd never awaken from.

I reminded him that February being winter, the field of poppies near us hadn't bloomed yet, and even if they had, I hadn't caught sight of a wicked witch to cast a sleeping spell since saying goodbye to my second mother-in-law. Sorry, my bad, but if you'd met her.... Anyway, I told him not to worry about me.

I left my class an hour later. I clamped on my seatbelt, and prayed. No, not the silent kind. There's more power in the spoken word. I said, "God, I'm not worrying about the closed road, the snow, or the hills. I KNOW you're gonna get me home, unharmed and smiling." Here's the trick. I **BELIEVED EVERY WORD I SAID.**

Any horse-lovers out there? Y'all know if a rider mounts up and feels fear, that darned horse can sense it? Depending on the equine's disposition, he might dump ya, act skittish, or just take the bit in his teeth and send you on a ride more harrowing than anything those rollercoaster engineers can think up.

If a horse, known to have a pea-sized brain, can feel your lack of bravado, don't ya think God can tell if you think something in your head you don't feel in your heart? **Maybe doesn't work.** And, sorry, but that "If-it's-in-Your-will-I-can-do-it" business is a copout, IMO. It's in Satan's will for us to fail. God wants us to succeed, just as we want our earthly children to succeed.

I approached the spot Highway 361 forks toward my house. I saw the flashing lights, saw the "Road Closed" sign, and cars veering to the side. I said it again. "Jesus, I know I'm gettin' home." I inched closer. The road going straight was closed, not the one I needed to take. I grinned. "Never doubted it." And I hadn't. But the best was yet to come.

I turned onto the mostly level part of our three-mile snow-laden dirt road and made the bulk of the journey with a few sliding skids (which were fun!). Then I was at the base of the half-mile upgrade. Hmm, looked wicked-but nothing God and the Silver Bullet couldn't handle.

I flipped the transmission into low and hit the gas. The Silver Bullet whined and complained. I kept saying, "Lord, I know You won't let me down. In Jesus' name, I'm getting home." Made it to the first plateau, but my wheels were spinnin'. I kept my foot on the brake, but still slid backward. "Lord, You're gettin'me home." I backed up and cranked the steering wheel to position the minivan sideways. The tires dug in, spewed snow and dirt, and I was off again.

Almost there. Had about a quarter of a mile to go. I smelled burning rubber, felt the laboring of the Silver Bullet, then looked behind me. "Awesome! See how far I've come? I knew you'd get me home, Lord. Let's finish this."

I hit the gas, but didn't move. Revved it again. Too bad I didn't have burlap bags to give my back wheels some traction. Heck, Jesus was better than a few dirty burlap sacks. No problemo. I gunned it and moved a hair. "Come on, Silver Bullet, I have God's promise--and you're my vehicle, baby."

I ascended (not to heaven, just up the hill). Hmm. My hubby's 4x4 looked forlorn as the Silver Bullet passed it. I woulda waved, but I needed both hands to control the steering wheel. I kept going. Sliding, correcting, moving.

I finally pulled into my driveway. Whew! I turned off the motor and patted the dashboard. "I can take it from here, faithful friend; you just rest." I didn't want the Silver Bullet to end up like Kim Darby's pony in *True Grit*, plus, after the berm incident, the Silver Bullet didn't speak to me for a week, so I decided not to push it. Besides, I'd missed my morning exercise session, so a quarter-mile hike uphill in a foot-and-a-half of snow would make up for it.

Then I looked at my feet in horror. Grrr. Wouldn't ya know it? I was wearing my embossed Italian leather boots with the three-inch heels. I thought of my options. I could take the climb in my socks and save my beloved boots, or I could go as I was.

I had many variables to consider; weight the consequences of my actions. A hospital stay due to frostbite would be costly, but probably not as expensive as my boots. Frostbite ... boots. Frostbite ... boots. If I added the time I wouldn't be able to work (*Beastly!*) due to a hospital stay, frostbite and boots ran neck-and-neck. But what if the frostbite was so severe, the doc had to amputate my feet? Well, the irony. If I had no feet, I couldn't wear my boots. I opted to leave 'em on and opened the door.

I plowed up my winding driveway singing, "I can do all things thru Christ Who strengthens me," happy as a clam.

A quarter mile later I passed my living room windows. Michaela shouted, "Dad, mom's here!"

I burst thru the door and said, "I'm home, family."

My husband shot from the bedroom, incredulous look intact. "How did you do it?"

"I drove up, parked at the bottom of the driveway, then hoofed it the rest of the way."

"You're a stud," he said.

I raised my arms like Rocky.

Michaela chimed in. "No, she's the Mom-i-nator!" (Her name for me.)

John shook his head. "I don't believe you made it."

I smiled. "That's the reason *you didn't*."

Why did this experience fill me with godly, devil-thwarting power when I'd ruined my favorite pair of boots? 'Cause before I left the Silver Bullet for my trek thru the snow, I realized what a dolt I was. If God could get the no-wheel-drive minivan past the 4x4, why couldn't he save my boots too? I prayed. Guess what I'm wearin' on my feet right now....

Ain't "my world" grand?



I'm hopin' to give ya the most comprehensive news you'll find in an e-newsletter (with a bit of sarcastic humor on the side), while weedin' out stuff that might not be of interest to a writer. If you have suggestions on how this newsletter can better serve you, as always, lemme know!

Special Bulletin - Perils of Publishing Contest Winners!

I've uploaded an extended Table of Contents on the Web site under ***Perils of Publishing***, so after ya read the newsletter (I said AFTER), go take a look.

If your idea wasn't chosen, don't take it as a ... rejection. Some weren't broad enough in scope, or were more about coping, etc.

The Finalists in the ***Perils of Publishing*** best-way-to-turn-a-rejection-into-a-happy-time are (in no particular order):

Sandra Purdue
 Gretchen Hoffman
 Margaret Brownley
 Thomas Smith
 Jenny Roar
 Janet W. Butler
 Diane Roberts
 Jeanne Rutgers, a.k.a. Jenna Riley
 Michael G. McLaughlin

Each of these writers will have their idea(s), all or in part, at my discretion (oh, the power) along with the title of their most recent book/manuscript, included in my book, ***The Perils of Publishing: Pithy Pointers to Protect Writers from Pitfalls, Punishment, and Pernicious Plight*** in the chapter titled: *I'll Show Ya Mine, if You Show Me Yours...* (idea, that is).

Plus, each of the above-mentioned writers are free to query if any still needs representation, and y'all write in a genre I'm accepting submissions for. Please mention you won the right to query in the first line of your one-page letter. You can find an updated submissions list at the end of the Submissions page on the Web site at: www.mortimerliterary.com Send queries to: kmortimer@mortimerliterary.com

Boo-Yah to ya!

The Grand Prize Winner for the overall best idea(s)-is a tie! I couldn't decide between two excellent submissions from:

Margaret Brownley and Jenny Roar. Congrats!

Margaret, I know you're represented by my friend, Natasha Kern, but Jenny gal, if you're still ... unattached, you've won a line edit of your prologue (if applicable) and your first chapter, even if I'm not accepting submissions for the genre you write in.

I may set up another contest in the near future, but ya won't know if ya don't follow my new blog, ***The Perils of Publishing***, which I'll kick-off on Monday, March 10th. Sign up for the blog at the site under-blog!

Whassup with Evanovich?

Well, we all have our problems. The *NY Post* tentatively reports (I'd like to know how the heck to interpret "**tentatively reports**"), the collaboration between Janet Evanovich and Stephen J. Cannell, once on hold, ain't. Ain't on hold, and ain't gonna happen. (Side note ... I've spoken with Mr. Cannell on three occasions, the first during a commercial break when I was a contestant on *Hollywood Squares*, and he's such a nice guy. Haven't met Janet yet....)

After the "creative differences" fiasco, Keith Kelly went a step further, suggesting "a rupture in the relationship between Evanovich and her longtime agent Robert Gottlieb at Trident Media."

Doubt it, since Trident negotiated a four-book deal for her with St. Martin's Press for a number possibly above \$40 million. (Oh, the amount of the advance is a rumor, of course....) So, she ain't workin' with Mr. Cannell, but the (rumored) \$40 million ought to make her feel better. Oughta make Mr. Gottlieb feel better too.

Nun of it For Danielle Steel

Yep, Miss Steel (no relation to my talented client, Raz Steel) wanted to be a nun. (I could probably live with the vow of poverty. Chastity-not sure. Obedience? Well, we all know the answer to that one. Sigh.)

After penning 88 sometimes steamy novels, 72 of them pubbed, at the age of sixty, Ms. Steel told Reuters, "I wanted to be a nun when I was young. Religion is what keeps me going. I would be utterly lost without it."

Yikes! How did she find the time for religion what with writing all those novels, getting' married five times (she's even got *me* beat on that score), havin' seven kids, adopting two more, and flying between her two estates in Paris and San Fran? I'm kidding, of course. I'm a Jesus lovin' gal, big-time. It's nice to know other people can make mistakes like I did, can write non-inspirational books, and still love God!

Holy Moly, Batman! Another Fake?

Honestly, who's an editor supposed to trust? Will this be the final nail in the memoir coffin? Riverhead hasta suck it up and go for total recall with the "memoir," *Love and Consequences*. The author (oh, I should write *fiction* author) Margaret B. Jones (a.k.a. Margaret Peggy Seltzer) took a dive after her sister saw the NYT interview in which Margaret said, "The reason I wanted to write the book is that all the time, people would say to me, you're not what I imagine someone from South L.A. would be like." (She outta be tossed for her sentence structure, if nothin' else.)

How would she know what South L.A. is like? She grew up in suburban Sherman Oaks, for cryin' out loud!

Sorry, but this chaps my hide. I'm so tired of so-called writers plucking life-stories outta mid-air, and publishing houses scooping them up and payin' big bucks in advances, while unbelievable, solid, pre-published fiction writers (some of whom I rep) get the shaft. Can everybody say, "Amen, sister!" Okay, rant over-back to the facts-reluctantly.

Ms. Jones (or Seltzer-and I could use one. Sorry, couldn't help it.) immediately copped to her book being totally fake (as opposed to sayin' it was partially true- like *some* authors, who will remain nameless. At least she didn't drag it out with protests of her innocence, like *some* authors-who will remain nameless. Oh, and props to her truthful sister-dunno her name.).

Penguin's Riverhead printed approximately 19,000 copies of said memoir. (Can you imagine how much you could make if ya had a copy to sell on eBay? Never mind.) Acquiring editor Sarah McGrath originally bought the manuscript for Scribner, (can ya hear their sigh of relief) but moved it to Riverhead. One of her comments to the NYT: "There's a huge personal betrayal here as well as a professional one." (Duh!) Riverhead publisher Geoff Kloske added "we rely on our authors to tell us the truth." (Revert back to my line about talented fiction writers.) Give Penguin a hand for recalling the books and takin' the fall instead of, well, you know-like *some* publishing houses, that will remain nameless....

What's a Million Lawyers at the Bottom of the Ocean Called?

A good start. I know-old joke, and not relevant in this case. Judith Regan can't find a boulder humongous enough to hide under, poor gal. Now Dreier, LLP alleges she owes them (and Redniss & Associates) twenty-five percent of her Harper Collins settlement (Ah, why'd they give her a settlement? Arrg!) plus costs incurred while gettin' her case trial-ready. They've billed her for a staggering 1,200 hours of work. (Sheesh! I should convince my hubby to come out of retirement.)

Gotta say, she did send 'em a check for \$125k, using the ole "paid-in-full-on-the-memo-line" trick. Who says attorneys are dumb-they returned the check. Ah, but the plot thickens. Seems Ms. Regan never signed the retainer agreement. (What was that comment I made about dumb attorneys? Never mind.)

What do I really wanna know? How much Harper Collins paid Regan in the settlement. If anyone at Harper Collins wants ta divulge the info to me, I promise, it's in the vault....

Harlequin Editors Yakkin'

Shut up! (No, not literally.) This is ridiculous. (For those of you behind the times, "ridiculous" now means "way cool.")

Every two weeks, Harlequin's gonna have a new 20-minute "Meet the Editors" podcast. Melissa Jeglinski and Diana Ventimiglia take the plunge first (brave gals!).

The release says the podcasts "are designed to demystify the concept of the editor as an inaccessible resource for aspiring authors." (Can anyone "demystify" that statement for me? See "Sm" on my Grammar Guide.) Adding, "'Meet the Editors' brings the personalities of the various Harlequin Enterprises editors to the fore and offers listeners the opportunity to get to know the people that shape the books they love to read." (Uh, that should read, "the people *who* shape..." Sorry, couldn't help it.)

Barbour Ups the Ante

Barbour's raised the word count for their *Heartsong Presents: Mysteries!* line to 62,000-63,000 words. Cindy, start typin'!

Nelson's Goin' Green

Developed in consultation with the Green Press Initiative, Thomas Nelson takes the bull by the horns, attempting to reduce their paper consumption at a rate of 30% or higher by 2012.

How will Nelson accomplish this? For one, they'll have shorter print runs (reduce the number of books per title by 10% in 2010, and by 18% by 2012). Also, they'll bump the use of PODs, and up the digital delivery of content.

Recycled paper will play a part, and Nelson will support the "best practices in forest management." In other words, they'll buy at least 20% of their paper from forests certified by the Forest Stewardship Council, which doesn't use paper containing fiber from endangered and old-growth forests.

The trees thank you, and so do I.

BookExpo America - Goin' West

The second largest book fair in the world, May 29-June 1 in Los Angeles, CA., is gonna feature Thomas Friedman as the conference keynote speaker. (I wasn't available. Have a Botox appointment.)

The Global Market Forum's gonna highlight China (Oh, how I so wanna comment, but) Anyhow, over 30,000 trade professionals will attend, as well as 2,000 exhibitors and 1,000 authors. They're planning 150 conference sessions. (Mayhap I should postpone my appointment. Hmm. My authors--my forehead. My authors--my forehead. Yikes, tough call!)
Note: No, I've never had Botox injections in my forehead, but might by the next time ya see me.

Wanna be "Inspired by Love"?

Ya won't find this info anywhere else. Web site isn't up yet. Inspiration publisher Summerside Press is lookin' for manuscripts for their *Inspired by Love* line. All the info is below. Oh, and the answers to your burning questions ... YES, Rachel will take proposals from pre-published authors and YES, Summerside pays a decent advance (see, there *is* a God!). I know, and you're welcome....

Fiction Guidelines for Summerside Press™

Fiction Goals

- Provides an alternative to secular romantic fiction by offering a pleasurable, escapist reading experience that is wholesome and inspirational.
- Supports a biblical worldview, whether explicitly or implicitly.
- Entertains but also edifies readers both intellectually and spiritually.
- Offers a story that is fresh and new, not clichéd or formulaic.
- Maintains high standards of excellence in craft and overall quality.

Content Guidelines

While these serve as guiding principles for fiction published by Summerside Press™, books will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Questionable content that is central to the progression of the story might be tolerated, but gratuitous content is subject to omission or revision.

- **Realistic: The novel does not sacrifice realism in order to tell a feel-good tale.**

Characters speak, think, and act naturally; relationships feel realistic and authentic; settings are accurately depicted; and plotlines are believable.

- **Relevant: The novel engages and relates to readers, so that its message is applicable and meaningful.**

The novel is not afraid to honestly depict some of the real issues people face in this world, explore moral gray areas, or tackle themes of sin and redemption, but it does so from a biblical perspective in which God's truth prevails. It does not sugarcoat the struggles of the Christian faith, but it does not engage in wanton depictions of sinful lifestyles.

- **Wholesome: The novel is free of offensive language and gratuitous descriptions of sex and violence.**

The novel may acknowledge that the physical aspect of romantic love is designed by God to enhance intimacy between a man and a woman, but references to sexual relations are not explicit. Furthermore, they either: 1) take place within a marital relationship, or 2) reflect the consequences of extramarital sexual relations from a biblical standpoint.

- **Positive: The novel is constructive and affirming. It ends on a note of hope and optimism.**

The story conveys a positive view of both romantic love and Christianity, but without becoming preachy, trite, or unrealistic.

Call for Proposals:

Love Finds You™ Inspirational Romance Fiction

About *Love Finds You*™

Summerside Press™ is launching its *Love Finds You*™ fiction line in 2008, featuring inspirational romance novels set in actual small towns across the United States. We launch our first 4 titles in the fall of 2008, and we plan to release 12 titles per year. These will be full-length novels, with a word count of between 60K and 100K words (220 to 380 pages). The stories may be historical or contemporary.

As the majority of the action in each novel will take place in the title town, plot details should remain reasonably faithful to the town's history, geography, and atmosphere. Although Summerside Press™ will provide titles and clear content boundaries, authors will be allowed the creative leeway they need to develop excellently-crafted fiction. Please refer to our Fiction Guidelines for more information regarding the goals and criteria for the line.

About Summerside Press™

With strong financial backing, Summerside Press™ offers distribution with an ECPA-member publisher to all major book retailers including Mass Market, ABA, CBA, Gift, Catalog, and Specialty Accounts. Projected units sales per title are 20,000 to 100,000. Summerside Press™ offers writers an advance, a competitive royalty, and author credit on book covers.

This is a chance for writers to be on the ground floor of a fast-growing publishing house and the opportunity to do many future products based on success of the first title. It is also an opportunity to be part of a "can't miss" series that brings the success of regional fiction together with upscale design for a unique and powerful presence in the market.

Book Proposals

As we have already named our first 12 titles, we would prefer "from scratch" proposals designed specifically for our project (though we might consider an exceptional existing manuscript if it could be renamed and modified to fit with a given title). Book proposals must include: an overview of the novel, a chapter-by-chapter synopsis, and at least 3 sample chapters. Please send proposals to:

Rachel Meisel
Fiction Editor, Summerside Press™
rachel@roverhaus.com
479.422.1145

Tentative Schedule:***Love Finds You*™ Inspirational Romance Fiction**

(So far, they've written up contracts on Romeo, Last Chance, and Valentine, and will be reviewing Big Sky, Montana and Bitter Creek, Wyoming-I'm sendin' those in, so back off! The remaining titles are still open.)

Fall 2008 Titles

1. Love Valley, North Carolina
2. Romeo, Colorado
3. Fort Lonesome, Florida
4. Snowball, Arkansas

2009 Titles

5. Liars Corner, Ohio
6. Last Chance, California
7. Valentine, Nebraska
8. Grand Detour, Illinois
9. Poetry, Texas
10. Miracle, Kentucky
11. Bridal Veil, Oregon
12. Cheat River, West Virginia
13. North Pole, Alaska
14. Mistletoe, Kentucky
15. Christmasville, Tennessee
16. Aspen, Colorado

Upcoming Titles

Lonelyville, New York
Sunsweet, Georgia
Triangle, Idaho
Hope, Kansas
Searchlight, Nevada
Gypsy, Oklahoma

Paradise, Pennsylvania
 Bethlehem, New Hampshire
 Rosebud, Alabama
 Snowflake, Arizona
 Happyland, Connecticut
 Carefree, Indiana
 Morning Sun, Iowa
 Hope, Kansas
 Noel, Louisiana
 Sunset, Maine
 Bitter Sweet, Maryland
 Ocean Spray, Massachusetts
 Thief River Falls, Minnesota
 Humble City, New Mexico
 Revenge, Ohio
 Christmas Valley, Oregon
 Arctic, Rhode Island
 Faith, South Dakota
 Choice, Texas
 Reindeer Hills, Utah
 Blissville, Vermont
 Carnation, Washington
 Little Hope, Wisconsin
 Recluse, Wyoming

Zondervan Shoots for Teens (no, not AT teens)

I just spoke with Harper Collins/Zondervan editor Barbara Scott. She'll be heading up the newest arm in the Zondervan line: YA. Lots of chat about publishing more inspirational books for teens, and Zondervan was listenin'.

Barb said they'll be aiming for 10 books per fiscal year to start, beginning this spring. Right now they need well-established authors, preferably successful in the YA market. She looked over her list while we chatted. They'll be pubbing multiple genres, and try to spread them evenly throughout the year. She's full out to 2012 with chick lit, naming Melody Carlson as one of her lead authors. There's a Sci-Fi series in the works, as well as some books covering more serious subjects, adventure, and some romance. She has a few spots open for thrillers and suspense (I think she's the only editor on earth who does...). Barb would like to see something different in the paranormal/spiritual arena.

For the chick lit, contemporary, and romance lines the word count should fall into the 50-60k range, but the suspense and paranormal/supernatural titles need to be upwards of 100,000 words. "Teens are more sophisticated now; sometimes even moreso than adults, as far as their reading is concerned," Barbara said. She added, "We walk a fine line and have many discussions about content. We want to attract teens with relevant subjects, but don't want to print anything skanky." (Well done, Barb. I agree!)

Alicia Mey, VP of marketing for Zonderkidz said, "A lot of what's out there from secular publishers is stuff that Christian parents and the teens themselves would find offensive-too edgy and raw. We wanted to offer an alternative. The first and foremost purpose is to offer a great read in this format, as well as good Christian content. Some of the readers will already be Christians, and they are looking for that." (Well, well said, as well.)

Kensington Hits the Streets

No, they aren't sending their editors out to the corner to sell more books. Not yet, anyway. I may be sending some of my clients out ... sorry, my bad. Kensington has acquired some of the publishing assets of Holloway House, "the pioneers of original street lit fiction."

Boo-yah! Yet another imprint emerges. Kensington goes for the company's backlist, hawking them as "Holloway House Classics," distributing the Robert "Iceberg Slim" Beck books in mass market. They'll be using new trade formats, and will throw in new urban fiction (the trendy genre of the moment) to enhance the line.

... and Reaches for Souls

No, last time I checked, Kate Duffy wasn't studying to enter the ministry. Kensington grabs for more of the multi-cultural audience. They're gonna focus a new imprint "Souls of My Sisters" on uplifting books for African American readers. This is a partnered venture with an entertainment

company, Souls of My Sister, Inc., owned by authors Dawn Marie Daniels and Candace Sandy.

They'll split up the workload with Kensington taking on the marketing, the distribution, and most of the licensing and sub-licensing agreements. Acquiring the titles falls on Daniels and Sandy. The "Sisters" line wants to put out four titles per year, minimum. This won't impact the amount of acquisitions set for the Dafina line.

As quoted in PW, Kensington CEO Steve Zacharius, said the new imprint was, "part of our continuing commitment to readers who have helped us grow and be responsive-especially our Dafina Books imprint." (I'd think up a witty line, but)

Penguin "Celebra-rates"

Whoo! Another new line, oh my. (And, no, you don't HAVE to put a comma after every "oh.") Not to be outdone, the Penguin Group launches "Celebra," focusing on "mainstream Hispanic personalities," beginning with the release of Geraldo Rivera's *HIS PANIC: Why Americans Fear Hispanics*. (For those of you who don't know, Geraldo Rivera's real name is: *Jerry Rivers* [no relation to Joan, whom I also met on the set of Hollywood Squares] ... just a bit of trivia.... "Geraldo" changed his name so it'd sound more ... Hispanic. He's half Porto Rican, half Jewish.)

Raymond Garcia (probably his real name) will be publishing the new line, and says, "The goal of the new imprint is to publish books for mainstream readers that will also resonate with the vast population of Hispanics in the United States."

Celebra will be under NAL's umbrella, spotlighting authors such as Gloria and Emilio Estefan, Perez Hilton, real estate developer Jorge Perez, and DailyKos.com blogger Markos Moulitsas. (What? No Cheech and Chong? Sheesh!)

If I Had Eight Arms...

Happy New Year, United States-here we come! Octopus Publishing Group is strollin' on over in January, '09. (Doesn't everyone just LOVE us?) Hatchette's goin' with Jonathon Stolper as associate publisher for the new US division, and wants to crank out 150 titles in the first year. (I'm so glad I don't haveta edit all those.)

As quoted in PM, Octopus CEO Alison Goff says, "this exciting move will allow Octopus to become a truly global publisher and gives us an even stronger presence in the world's largest book market. We will benefit from locally based US input into our publishing plans and we're very much looking forward to working with our colleagues at our sister company Hachette Book Group USA." (On behalf of the United States of America, we welcome ya!)

Medallion Press: A Picture's Worth a Thousand Words...

Okay, this is getting' scary. You'd think with all these new lines and imprints opening up, I could get some more pre-pubbed authors pubbed. Hello? ... Any editors out there listenin'?

Medallion Press starts a fifth line in November, but with cool pictures. Sort of like Dr. Seuss for romance readers. (I know; you'll be buying the books *for the text*...)

"Medallion Masterpiece Collection" will feature novellas by various authors, illustrated by Cherif Fortin and Lynn Sanders. They'll cover a myriad of genres including contemporary, fantasy, hysterical (oops, meant "historical"), horror, mainstream, mysteries, paranormal, romantic suspense, Sci-Fi, suspense, thrillers, and YA. (Whew, think I just got one step closer to carpel tunnel.) Shoot for a word count between 80 -120k. The first title will be *Passion's Blood*.

I can see it now. No more, "Would you like to come up and see my etchings?" Now we'll get, "Would you like to come up and see my new romance novels?"

MARKET MOVES

Agents:

Colleen Lindsay has hooked up with FinePrint Literary Management. In the fiction arena, she wants to acquire fantasy and science fiction, horror, paranormal romance, and YA. In non-fiction: pop culture and graphic novels. Lindsay used to be a publicity and marketing gal for genre publishing, with 20 years experience in the field. Whew! Bet she'll make a great agent.

Editors:

Karen Rinaldi makes a major move, leaving her nine-year position at Bloomsbury USA for

Rodale, as their new senior vp starting April 1st. (Isn't that April Fool's Day? Can you imagine if she showed up at Rodale, and they said-never mind...) Say, maybe that's why I can't get my editor at Rodale to call me back! (Just kiddin'.)

Boo-Yah! Avon's recognized Erika Tsang's talent. They bumped her up to executive editor.

Lindsay Sagnette shifts from Bloomsbury to St. Martin's with an editorial position. She's on the hunt for fast-paced suspense and intriguing women's fiction.

Karyn Marcus made the hop from associate editor at Doubleday Broadway, to editor at Thomas Dunne Books.

Assistant Editor Sean Mackiewicz checks out at Harlequin to have a blast at DC Comics.

Barbara Jones leaves her deputy editor position at *More* magazine. (Guess she wanted *more*. Mayhap the sheriff's position? Sorry, couldn't help it...) She's now an executive editor for Hyperion.

Also, Gretchen Young keeps her spot as executive editor at Hyperion, but slides into an editorial director position for ABC Synergy, Hyperion's corporate partner.

Penguin promotes Alexis Washam to an editorial position.

Kelli Martin snags a senior editor spot at Harlequin's Kimani Romance. Former places of gameful employment include: Jump at the Sun, Amistad, and Simon & Schuster.

Two Random House gals (not *Random* gals), Abby Plesser and Lea Beresford, get bounced up to assistant editor slots.



Ask An Editor

Always lookin' for ways to help writers, each month I'll have an editor(s) answer three questions I choose from writers' submissions. This month I thought up the question, but anyone who wants to submit for future newsletters, any genre, can submit at: kmortimer@mortimerliterary.com. Type: "Ask An Editor" in the subject line. For this month, I asked **Crown (Random House) historical editor,**

Heather Proulx:

Do historical fiction novels, such as medievals:

- **need to use the language of the times--as in no contractions allowed**
- **contractions allowed in narrative, but not in dialogue**
- **or, are contractions fine throughout?**

Heather's Answer:

I've read historical fiction that evokes a specific time period through voice and I've read fiction set in the past but written in a modern voice. I think it depends on the writer. Some manage to transport you through the language they use, but if it is not convincing throughout, it can become more of a distraction than a literary element. All in all, there are no specific rules, in my opinion, regarding contractions-as long as the voice is authentic and doesn't struggle in the telling of the story, contractions are fine.

My thanks, fair lady, Heather....



Going, Going ... Gone!

SOLD!

***Candy-Coated Secrets* by Cynthia Hickey**

Book 2 in the *Summer Meadows Mystery Series*

Who would've thought walking an elephant down Highway 64 would lead to murder? Summer's act of goodwill lands her up to her neck in another mystery. Her fiancée Ethan is apprehensive about her strong desire to find the murderer and, since Summer promised God she wouldn't tell anymore white lies, she drags Ethan along. This murder mystery rehashes Summer's deepest guilt and biggest fears as the two love-birds battle man's darker side. To Susan Downs at *Barbour Presents: Mysteries!* For release in 2009.



**Got Edits? You Better Believe It!
EDITOR AND AGENT EDITS THIS MONTH at MY eBay AUCTION!**

Exciting news! I spoke with **SOURCEBOOKS** editor **DEB WERKSMAN** this morning. She's kindly offered to do an auction for the Robin Miller Mortgage Fund. Deb will read the winner's first chapter and short synopsis, followed by a 15-minute phone consultation. She also said, "And if I want to buy the manuscript, I want YOU to represent it, Kelly." (I so love Deb! What a sweetie.) So, I guess you'd be stuck with both of us.

Deb would like to limit the bidders to the Single Title genres following, as these are what she buys: General Romance Fiction, Contemporary Romance, Historicals, Paranormal/Time Travel, Regencies, and Romantic Suspense. Please don't bid if you write interracial romance, inspirational, or urban fantasy, as Deb said, "I wouldn't know what to do with it ... yet!"

Deb will need approximately 4 weeks to evaluate the winning submission. The minimum opening bid is \$24.99. Auction starts ... NOW! Go to <http://www.ebay.com/> (after you finish reading this incredible newsletter I worked my tail off to write...). To bid, type: **Sourcebooks Editor 1st Chapter Edit/Phone Consult** in the search box. All proceeds (minus fees) go to the Robin Miller Mortgage Fund. God bless you, Deb!

But that's not all...

Fellow agent and all-around great gal, **TAMELA HANCOCK MURRAY of the HARTLINE AGENCY** will edit the first chapter of your manuscript via e-mail. ABA or CBA. Anything but Erotica or Romantica. She'll need two weeks to read the winning bidder's submission. Proceeds will go to Robin's mortgage fund, minus the fees. The minimum opening bid is \$24.99. Auction starts ... NOW! Go to <http://www.ebay.com/> (after you finish reading this incredible newsletter I worked my tail off to write...). To bid, type: **Literary Agent Tamela Hancock Murray 1st Chapter Edit** in the search box. God bless you, Tamela!

Any editor or agent who wishes to help Robin by editing a chapter, or an author willing to raffle an autographed book, etc., through an eBay auction, please contact me. (Sorry, need to be a big-name author, or the auction might not be successful.)

Please distribute this info to every loop you're on. Thanks!

Do Ya Wanna...

- Take a weekly course from an agent? (Your eyebrow should raise; antennas up.)
- Do ya wanna know how to ask an agent numerous questions regarding all aspects of the publishing world, or anything else she might know about, without an acerbic reply (acerbic, no; sarcastic, possibly), the first Monday of every month? (Both eyebrows up; fidgeting in your seat.)
- Do ya wanna learn from the comfort of your home ... Online. (Should be thinkin', "If it sounds too good to be true....")
- Do ya wanna know how much it's gonna cost ya? (Ah, the catch.) Sorry, no catch. Won't cost ya anything. (You should now pop out of your seat, hop from one foot to the other and say, "I wanna know! I wanna know!")

I can't believe I gotta use the "B" word: Join my BLOG, *The Perils of Publishing*. No, I don't have time for a blog, but I'm writing a non-fiction book proposal, *The Perils of Publishing: Pithy Pointers to Protect Writers from Pitfalls, Punishment, and Pernicious Plights*, and haveta beef-up a platform (*Beastly!*). So, I'm not being altruistic on this occasion; I need your help.

It takes approximately 2-5k hits for a blog to impress an editor. So, **please distribute this announcement (or entire newsletter), to every loop ya can!** First blog will be Monday, March 10. I'm open for ideas on what topic to start with. If I don't get a consensus, I'll choose my own subject. Each Monday, I'll give you a pertinent lesson, except for the open forum week. Sign up soon at www.mortimerliterary.com

A GAL DOES WHAT SHE CAN

Mortimer Literary Agency's Mentorship Award

I know you're thinkin': "What's that Mortimer gal up to now?" If you're on the ACFW loop, you know about this program and this year's winner, but keep readin', 'cause next year I'm choosing differently.

An idea's been rollin' around all that empty space in my head. I'm here to help writers. I can't help everyone, but I can help ONE. I want to take a writer who needs extra help, and work with them thru 2008. My goal: to have a publishable manuscript by December, and offer the writer representation.

Yeah, I know, but I have the hour between 3:00 and 4:00 a.m. available. I had my eye on several writers (no, not literally) who'd submitted to me. This year's winner has a manuscript that needs some polish, but her voice sounds loud and clear. She works hard and does what it takes, for however long it takes. This writer helps others, even when it's inconvenient. I so admire that quality. Without further verbiage, the Mortimer Literary Mentorship Award winner for 2008 is:

Ms. Pamela James

Next year, it's a competition. I'll ask for a full page of your work, and a one-page essay telling me why you should win the mentorship award. I'll limit the entries to certain genres, and the first 150 submissions, but if ya jump the gun, you're out. I'll accept your material near the end of the year. To find out when, you'll have to sign up for my new blog. (I know, I'm cheating, but I need those 2-5k hits.)



ROBIN MILLER NEEDS OUR HELP!

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

Thanks to all who've participated. Robin made her mortgage payment last month because of you! God bless all those who contributed. Still have nine months to go, so pledges and one-time gifts are vital.

Robin Miller w/a Robin Carroll: ACFW President, Christian author, my client, my friend, my sister; needs her mortgage paid thru Dec, 2008 (last payment due to me at the end of November). That's 2k a month. I'm accepting monthly pledges on her behalf in amounts from \$5.00 and up per month, for 9 months. Also, one-time donations in any amount are warmly received. Send me an e-mail if you plan to help, and if it's a one-time gift, or a monthly pledge, so I can count your dollars in the monthly total. Make checks payable to **Kelly Mortimer**. Send checks to:
Kelly Mortimer * 52645 Paui Rd. * Aguanga, CA 92536
 Or by PayPal (but they charge a fee, so avoid, if possible): <http://www.paypal.com/> . My email is: kelly@mortimer.com Username is: countrysudz

We had eight people, including myself, pledge--or so I thought. Thru miscommunication, two donations were one-time gifts I thought were pledges. That means the monthly pledge total plummeted to a paltry \$295.00. Come on, people! Robin is on a plane as you're reading this. She's leaving her kids to head the ACFW Borad Meeting. Can't ya scrape up ten or twenty bucks to help her out? Two one-time givers sent \$500.00 each in Jan and Feb! I'm doing all I can. but I'm only one person (allbeit one person who can do the work of three people, but only three.)

If all the ACFW members stepped up with ten or twenty bucks a month, we'd be there. Be a blessing to Robin, and be blessed in return. The Bible tells us to take care of fellow Christians BEFORE we take care of anyone else. And if you aren't a Christian, I appeal to you as a writer. Help another writer! Gotta tell y'all, I'm underwhelmed with the response I've gotten thus far. Yep, ya forced me to play the guilt card. For those who've given, of course, you're exempt from my dissapointment. The rest of y'all--SURPRISE ME!



Terry Odell's, *What's in a Name?*, finaled in the romantic suspense category of the Gayle Wilson Award of Excellence contest. Unbelievable! She's up against some much bigger names but, hey ... *What's in a Name?!* (and where's that interrobang when ya need it ?!)

Props again to client **Terry Odell** whose short story, ***Hurricane Breeze***, released from Wild Rose

Press on Feb. 20. Following on March 7th, **Second Chance Rose**.
You go, gal!

Wanna hear somethin' great? Here it is. Use this link:

http://www.robincaroll.com/files/Robin_radio.mp3 to listen to ACFW's president, **Robin Miller w/a Robin Carroll's** Radio Interview. Sounds fab!

Charlene Sands book, **The Corporate Raider's Revenge** received a PERFECT 10 from *Romance Reviews Today*, and last year's June *Harlequin Desire*, **Between the CEO'S Sheets**, won the 2007 *Cataromance Reviewer's Choice Award*. Hey gal, you're a PERFECT 10!

HARLEQUIN's *READS NOT TO MISS on FRESH FICTION* put **Charlene Sand's** January *Harlequin Desire* on the top of their list. Charlene, you're MY choice!

Also from **Charlene**, *Romantic Times Magazine* named Clint Hayworth, (the protagonist from her newest release **Taming the Texan**), as KISS Hero for March. Charlene, I could kiss ya!

New Additions to the Family

January's chapter edit eBay auction winner, **Robin Haseltine**, got an offer for her urban fantasy manuscript, **The Curse of the Dragon's Spell**. Mortimer Literary signed her to a one-book contract, as I haven't even read the entire manuscript. Glad to have ya, gal!

The Hot Seat

A big thank you to **Kimberly Shumate**, manuscript coordinator at **Harvest House Publishers**, for taking time out of her harried schedule to help writers. Snaps, gal pal!

Q- Your title is "manuscript coordinator." What are your duties?

A- First and foremost, I track all incoming manuscripts that are submitted, preferably arriving via email although there are still some that are sent in hardcopy. We receive approximately 1,200 queries and proposals annually. That number reflects both "solicited" (through an agent) and "unsolicited" (cold submission).

Unsolicited manuscripts, proposals, or self-published books-"unsolicited" as in all works that have not been acquisitioned by Harvest House-are quickly scanned for the genre, hook, audience, marketing/sales possibilities or platform of the author, page count, etc. Since every publisher has a different set of goals and objectives for their publishing program, it is usually easy to see at a glance if the material is appropriate. As a rule, we don't publish autobiographies or children's books, and our "gift books" are created in-house by editors/writers making that an additional genre we are not looking to fill from outside sources. To those unsolicited submissions, we send a letter of appreciation and offer alternative avenues for them to pursue, be it education, critique groups, writer's conferences, and/or manuscript review services.

Solicited material (sent by an agent or requested by editor/conference) is printed out, logged into a tracking database system, and given to the appropriate senior editor. This allows me to check the proposal's history, if any, in case it has already been previously submitted and rejected, or discover that it's a rewrite and requested by an editor for a second look.

In addition to the tracking duties, I review manuscripts for senior editors; take appointments at writer's conferences; and review material via online manuscript review services such as Christian Manuscript Submissions and The Writer's Edge.

Q- Are you able to acquire?

A- No, I do not acquire authors. I only bring what I believe to be worthy talent to the attention of the senior editors.

Q- How much do your recommendations figure into the decision of whether an editor reads the manuscript?

A- The editors know that my job is to digest countless proposals monthly and, more times than not, write rejection letters in answer to those submissions. At the risk of sounding like a big, fat cynic, I'm ruthless in finding discrepancies in the material, but also recognize work that is of a higher quality than the average submission. If I bring an author's project to an editor's attention, they figure it must be worth a look. Now, ask me if they always sign the author. I wish. But when it

happens, it's magic! There's nothing like finding a pearl at the bottom of the ocean and bringing it to the surface where all can admire and appreciate its beauty. This isn't limited to only fiction. I have found a several non-fiction authors with very small to no platform, and they were signed and sold very well. And although this is rare, it can happen.

Q- What do you look for when considering to pass a manuscript "up the line"?

A- There are usually several variables to that decision. If it is a work of fiction, I look at what is prevalent and selling in the marketplace and if it can compete-what are mainstream fiction readers hungry for? For a long time, the Chick-Lit genre was enormously popular beginning with Bridget Jones' Diary. There was a virtual tidal wave of books that flooded the market written in first-person, present tense, journal style. Now, it has all but fizzled out. Thank you, Lord! I can only take so much female inner-dialogue chat-chat. I listen to enough of it in my own head. Now, it appears that historical novels are making a comeback. Nice!

As for non-fiction works, we put more emphasis on its marketability, the author's platform, and how relevant it is to today. Is it accessible to the masses? Does it meet a need? Is it time-sensitive? Does it fit our publishing program meaning do we have the inroads to that particular audience?

Most importantly, whether it is fiction or non-fiction, we are looking for an interesting and engaging voice along with originality. If the old adage is true-"*there's nothing new under the sun*"-then finding a new and intriguing way of communicating your message is vital to its publishing success.

Q- Any advice to authors and agents who'd like to get your attention?

A- Be clever in your presentation. Think outside the box. Make me laugh out loud or reach for a Kleenex. One of the more interesting proposals I've received was a brief one-page query letter handwritten by the story's protagonist introducing the author. It was really creative and entertaining. Another submission that came in was written by a woman who was so self-deprecating she had me howling at my desk. Sadly, she didn't research her publishers thus wasting her time and money by sending secular material to a Christian publishing company. It only made me wish Christians had more of a sense of humor and didn't take themselves quite so seriously.

Q- Does a solid marketing plan figure into your decisions?

A- Yes, it absolutely does. If the material cannot be marketed with any kind of success, then sales will more than likely prove to be dismal. For non-fiction, we ask questions like... what is the market and how big is it? How easily can that market be reached? Uniqueness is extremely important. Is there a possibility of creating a Brand? Does the author have a platform? When considering fiction, we look at character development, story line, pace, Christian content, genre, etc. in order to make an educated decision on whether or not the material has potential within the current marketplace. In either case, it's important for the author to think about the market and how it will affect the project's value when shopping it around.

Q- Is there a particular thing that turns you off about a manuscript?

A- In a word: ***clichés***. If I had a dime for every...(ten bucks says you can finish this sentence). I can't tell you how many times I've read the following groaners: a chill ran down my spine; he set his jaw; she clicked her tongue; he furrowed his brow; she bit her lip, he held his breath; and the list goes on. If I did all of the things that some fiction characters are made to do, the only hope for me would be heavy medication. Come on, people, *you're better than that!*

Q- Anything you'd like to add in the form of advice?

A- Just be passionate. I can't tell you how many intellectuals, Ph.D.'s, doctors, attorneys, and the like that we've rejected simply because their tone was cold and cerebral. Be warm, accessible, and inviting. Engage your readers; grab their attention from the start and don't let go. Carry it to the final page. Be transparent and share personal stories. Give it your all. As a talented editor once told me, "Kimberly, bleed all over the page and clean it up later." I discovered in my own writing that this allowed my creative juices to flow without my internal censor quenching the fire. My advice? ***Burn, Baby, burn!*** Most of all-practice. All the passion in the world isn't going to make you as good as a seasoned, established author. Unless you're an absolute nature, it will be the hours you put in day in and day out at the keyboard that will hone your skills to meet industry standards. So, practice!

FYI: Harvest House **Does Not** accept unagented manuscripts, so please don't barrage Kimberly, or I'll haveta hurt ya...



BAYOU CORRUPTION by Robin Carroll (a.k.a. Robin Miller)

Steeple Hill Love Inspired Suspense

ISBN: 13:978-0-373-44279-9

February 2008

Romantic Suspense

Lagniappe, Louisiana - Present Day

Alyssa LeBlanc is reluctantly returning to Lagniappe, because Grandmere is in the hospital. Alyssa bitterly believes that only pain comes out of the bayou. After her parents were killed, she and her two sisters came to live with Grandmere. She was severely ridiculed because Grandmere is a voodoo priestess and her grandfather was a member of the KKK. Her mood is as dark as the storm that is breaking. With the torrential rain, it is almost impossible to see, much less drive. As soon as Grandmere is okay, Alyssa plans to return to Shreveport where she works as a reporter for the Shreveport Times. Suddenly, her car spins out of control and lands in a ditch. Luckily, Alyssa sees the lights of a car coming her way but, before she can run up to the road and hail it, the car stops, and a very large bag is thrown out. Alyssa hides and, after the car leaves, runs to the bag, opens it up and finds Sheriff Bubba Theriot, beaten, barely alive. As she calls for help, Alyssa can't help thinking things have now gone from bad to worse. Why me?

Jackson "Jacks" Devereaux thrives on the perils of a dangerous story, which is why he is a top notch investigative reporter for the New Orleans Times-Picayune. So, when his good friend from college, Sheriff Bubba Theriot, calls him asking for help, Jacks is there. Bubba believes he has a mole on his staff. He has discovered evidence that shows there is smuggling going on in and around the intercoastal port. Every lead and piece of information found gets lost, and he is being stonewalled. Hearing on the scanner that Bubba has been gravely injured and may die, he races to the site and can only pray that Bubba will survive.

Jacks and Alyssa meet over Bubba's body. Since both are reporters, they know there is something serious going on. After the FBI interviews them, both are told not to leave town, and they decide to investigate on their own. So as not to lose her job, Alyssa calls her editor and is given the assignment to interview Senator Mouton, who is accused of corruption. However, in her interview, the senator comments that this is only gossip from the rumor mill from those who are jealous of him. Alyssa's reporter instinct kicks in; the senator is just too smooth. Could the Senator be connected to the sheriff's attack? What about the smuggling? Is he connected to her parents' death? Will Alyssa fall victim to the bayou that she so despises?

BAYOU CORRUPTION will keep the reader spellbound. Jacks knows whoever is doing the smuggling also tried to kill Bubba. He will find them. He is seriously attracted to Alyssa, yet she keeps pushing him away. Why is Alyssa so bitter? When Alyssa is around her sister, she sees how CoCo has achieved a peace and calmness in her life. This brings Alyssa to contemplate her own spiritual path -- can she let go of her anger, bitterness and regret to move forward? Alyssa begins to feel hunger to learn more about God.

The story surges forward with suspense built into the twists and turns. Robin Carroll has once again woven a tale that will leave the reader wanting more. Jacks is a hero the readers will embrace, smart, funny, and caring. Alyssa, so engrossed in her self pity, she is hard to warm to. However, the reader will see a transformation as she comes to terms with herself, Jacks, her family, and her relationship with God. Can Jacks and Alyssa see that they were brought together for a reason? This is the second book of the **BAYOU TRILOGY**. The inexplicable beauty of the bayou is the backdrop, and even Moodoo, the gator from **BAYOU JUSTICE**, puts in an appearance. Secondary characters are superb, each with his or her eccentric traits and secrets. I look forward to the third installment, **BAYOU JUDGMENT**, coming in May 2008.

Enjoy.--Deborah C Jackson, *Romance Reviews Today*

AND...

Reporter Jackson Devereaux is in Cajun country doing undercover work for his best friend, the sheriff, who suspects smuggling. Reporter Alyssa LeBlanc is there too, and they join forces to find the truth. It's not easy, especially for Alyssa, who has emotional conflicts that must be conquered. Robin Carroll's *Bayou Corruption* (4) is a quick story with a riveting conclusion.

-Robin Taylor, *Romantic Times Magazine*

AND...

Jackson Devereaux arrived in Louisiana to assist his friend the sheriff in discovering who's behind money drops on the bayou. However, Jackson is unable to save his friend when he's left for dead and slips into a coma. Now all he can do is try to finish the investigation they had started and hopefully find out who hurt his friend. He never expects Alyssa LeBlanc, the woman who found his buddy and possibly saved his life. Nor does he expect the feelings she inspires.

Alyssa LeBlanc had hoped to never return to her hometown, but when her grandmother is put in the hospital she knows she must. Then she has an accident while on the way to her grandmother's house and sees what she thinks is trash thrown from a car, but soon discovers it is actually the sheriff, left for dead. Soon Alyssa finds herself in the midst of an investigation, one that may uncover secrets from her past she had hoped to never face again, as well as being forced to be in the company of a man she hates, namely Jackson. Soon Alyssa must face the truth about her faith, and her life. She may not be prepared for what she uncovers, hidden deep within the bayou, nor may she be ready to lead the way to that truth.

BAYOU CORRUPTION follows **BAYOU JUSTICE**, and is just as wonderful as Ms. Caroll's previous story. If you have not read **BAYOU JUSTICE**, you can follow **BAYOU CORRUPTION** easily enough, however, you will want to rush out and get that story. Ms. Caroll has written a story that is sure to touch readers on many levels, the spiritual journey that Alyssa faces is one that is sure to move readers to tears. The suspense that is found within **BAYOU CORRUPTION** will leave you quickly turning pages eager to find out how things will end, but also sad to see that conclusion come. The characters are realistic and will soon find their way into your heart. This is a series that is sure to find its way onto many reader's keeper shelves. I highly recommend **BAYOU JUSTICE** to everyone. I can hardly wait for more of Ms. Caroll's work and am eager to see what the future holds for these characters, it's sure to be thrilling.

I want to add an extra side note; this story came at a time when I truly needed to be reminded that God can handle all the struggles we cannot, I also want to add that readers in need of a gentle reminder to hand our cares over to him will find in **BAYOU CORRUPTION** a message that is sure to reach your soul.

--Reviewed by Wendy Keel - Rating 4 ½ , *Romance Readers Connection*
(Nice to know everyone agrees with me!)



Other Junk

In a non writing-related announcement, my eldest daughter Gina began the 12-month rehab program at Teen Challenge. Two-and-a-half months into the 3-month "boot camp," they kicked her out of the program for non drug-related reasons. She's now serving her 60-day sentence, afterwhich they'll release her. All prayers are appreciated.



Wise Words for the Month by "The Sassy Sage"

Here's a real deep one for ya, people:
"Okay ... isn't."

Wrap It Up

Next month ... To "E," or not to "E"? That, is the question. I'll interview an author who's E-pubbed, and gone thru a traditional publisher. You'll also get my opinion (Whoa! Big shock!) on using an E-pubbed manuscript as a publishing credit, and hopefully an editor's, if I have time. (No comment.)

I'll also have a piece on a worthwhile Small Press Publisher I heartily recommend!

Hope y'all enjoyed **Yeah, Write!** this month. As always, all comments are welcome via e-mail to: kmortimer@mortimerliterary.com
God bless!

To unsubscribe: <http://www.mortimerliterary.com/>