

From: kmortimer@mortimerliterary.com
Sent: Tuesday, May 06, 2008 11:29 PM
To: List
Subject: May 2008



Perils of Publishing

No.6 / May 2008

Yeah Write! is now **Perils of Publishing**. I'm knee-deep in writing my proposal for the book, hence the change.

Perils of Publishing will be a weekly newsletter with industry news only, 'cause a month is a long time to wait for all those juicy tidbits. Don't despair, the first newsletter of the month will have the extras you're used to.

 Welcome to My World

PLAYIN' HOOKY

I shoulda known better. The last day of the business week, and instead of calling editors, I decided to get the heck out of the house and take advantage of an unbelievable sale. No, not for clothes. See, you only *think* ya know me. This sale commenced at Jo-Ann Fabric and Crafting Supplies, and if I waited until Saturday, all the soccer moms would beat me to the best stuff.

Normally, I work on my other business, 4 Gals, in the evening, but for this, I'd make an exception. Couldn't wait to see if I'd unearth some fab fabrics! I'd just finished my first handbag, and almost completed my briefcase, but I hadn't done my signature embellishments yet. Sorry, getting' off the track. Buuut, we have so few choices when it comes to stylish laptop carriers and briefcases, someone has to take matters into their own hands! (I know, reflexive pronoun use, but that's the saying! I know, too many exclamation points....) We must solve the stuck-without-style blues. Who ya gonna call? Kelly Mortimer.

Since the price of gasoline is so high, it's less expensive to go to Jo-Ann's than drive to the clothing district in Los Angeles. Jo-Ann's has an aisle of "red tag fabrics" at reduced cost. Two or three times a year, they slash the already discounted red tags by 50%. Add in my 10%-off coupon, and I hadta give the Silver Bullet a workout.

I'm rural; Temecula is the closest city, but I figured I'd take the long way home and swing by the Hemet Jo-Ann store as well. It's smaller in square footage, but often has different items. Wait a minute, Wal Mart has a table of reduced-priced material as well. Why not make a day of it.

Friday mornin' and I'm ready to go. My hubby rolled out the third seat of the Silver Bullet (actually, we had to tug, yank, and heft) and placed it (well, dropped it with a thud so loud, the city due east thought Aguanga was the epi-center of a 5.7) by my front door. Yep we got our minivan the year before the seats magically disappear into the floor with the touch of a button. Sigh. But now I had loads of room for all those beauteous bolts! And, I thought it'd be a nice gesture to leave the bench seat there in case the UPS man decided he needed a rest.

So, off I go, list in hand. Did I mention I decided to use the trip to do my other errands as well? Total of fifteen stops. No, that isn't a misprint. An ambitious schedule considering it takes 40 minutes just to get to Temecula, and another 30 minutes to hop over to Hemet, then 45 minutes from Hemet to home. But, I'm the "Mominator," as my youngest calls me. I have more energy than a 20-year-old, and left the house equipped with a map of the most advantageous route to maximize my shopping experience. No problemo. I'd be home in time to do twenty minutes of step aerobics *and* an hour to tend to my land. Life is good.

5/7/2008

First stop. Picked up my gorgeous new business cards. Mortimer Crest in full color on 100# bond matte. You know, the kind of paper that when someone hands ya the card, you rub it 'cause you think you have two cards stuck together. I scrutinized the info for typos. Whew! All correct. Nothin' to worry about. I trooped out with a smile.

Drove to my next stop. I won't bore ya with all the details, but minor, annoying mishaps abounded. Then while driving, my business cards toppled off the seat. ARRG! I picked them up and GRRR! The info was correct, all right. Except I'd given the printer the old design that had my fax number on it (albeit correct) instead of my e-mail address. The e-mail address is more important than the fax number, in fact, it's more important than the phone number.

UGH! There's a wad of cash down the drain. Not only that, but I couldn't find my shades. The ones with the plum-colored lenses that go so well with my skintone. The sun blazed at me in laughter. I'm driving around with my hand against my forehead to keep my eyeballs from burning out of my skull. Those minor mishaps crept up a few notches on the annoyance scale.

On to Jo-Ann's in Temecula where I'm happy to report, nothing icky happened. Found some perfect fabrics, also grabbed great trim, which comes into play when I get the spare time to embellish my stuff. In case y'all don't know how Jo-Ann stores work, you bring your fabric and trim to a cutting counter. They measure what you want, scan the UPC, and give you a yellow cutting slip, which you take to the cashier to pay. Done waiting 30 minutes for measuring. GRRR! Zoomed to the front of the store, whipped out the debit card, exited, and tossed my mountain of purchases into the back of the Silver Bullet like an Olympic discus-thrower. Then I got outta Dodge (in my Dodge).

So, now I'm waiting at the cutting counter in the Hemet store. A line builds 'cause I buy all the fabric on the bolt if I find something I like. Takes awhile to measure. The lady behind me asked why I needed so much fabric, so I told her and the other four people in line (obviously eavesdropping) about my business. Someone asked how long I'd been fashioning handbags. Not long, 'cause by day I ran a literary agency.

"Whaddaya know," the man two back says. Thinning white hair, bulbous veined nose, and missing five teeth—that I could count. Who knows what else lurked inside his mouth. I certainly didn't wanna know. He scratched his rotund belly through his stained, graying T-shirt (this *is* non-fiction) and then proceeded to tell me he was writing a book. I politely congratulated him and encouraged him to finish his debut masterpiece. He pressed me for more info. I didn't wanna appear rude, so I asked him what genre he wrote in. As soon as I defined "genre," his reply was, "Ha! I write the only thing selling these days. *Westerns*."

Now I'm sweatin', dreading what barreled toward me like a freight train without brakes. Yep, he asked for my business card so he could send me his full manuscript. Stroke of good fortune, finally! I didn't put those faulty business cards in my purse. Buuut, I couldn't lie, and mentioned I did have some in the car, darn it! He said he'd meet me outside to nab one. I'm thinkin', not if I can burn rubber outta the parking lot before he emerged!

I exit into the darkness. How did that nasty sun set in an hour? Gazing at my watch, I gasped. Eight PM! And I still had a 45-minute drive home. I'm gritting my teeth as I rush to my van to beat my would-be client, and dip my hand into my purse to find my keys. *No keys*. ARRG! Ah, but the door wasn't locked. Hope sprung eternal. Mayhap I'd left the keys in the ignition ... nope, no luck. At least I could hunker down and hide until the coast was clear.

I turned to heft those heavy fabrics into the van. Huh? No cart! I take a few steps, my eagle eyes scanning the pavement. That's when I found it, two rows down. Slanting asphalt. Figured. I sprint for the cart, sure "Geezer Guy" is gonna find me at any moment. I banged my shin on the traitorous shopping cart, but managed to get everything loaded with no sign of my would-be client.

Had some smaller bags to toss in, so I hurried to the front, passenger side. Whaddaya know. On the floor in-between the seat and the car door lay my sunglasses. Now the inky-black sky laughed at me. I hopped in, exploring my options. If I went back into Jo-Ann's to snag my keys, I'd have to read a full manuscript. *Beastly*. I remembered the hidden spare key. Decision time. Was it worth using said spare key and having to take a 45-minute drive-one way-on the morrow to pick up my regular set in order to avoid Geezer Guy? After an agonizing decision-YEP! I zipped away in the nick of time.

Getting home after 9:00 PM hadn't been in my plan, but at least I could relax. Until I went inside. I dropped my handbag on the table, and heard a jingle. I knew my keys weren't in that bag. Positive. I dumped my purse. Could've saved the agonizing decision, as my keys, reflecting in the lamplight, laughed at me.

Was that the end of my "fun" day? Nope. When I went to put my stuff back in my handbag, a scrap of yellow paper caught my eye. My heartbeat rose. My breath caught. There lay one of the two cutting slips from the Jo-Ann store in Temecula. I'd forgotten I'd stood in the measuring line twice: Once for fabric; once for trim. The \$120.00 cutting slip laughed at me. I could hear it jeering between guffaws. *SHOPLIFTER!* (Welcome to my world.)

I'm a Jesus-lovin' woman, big-time. No way I could let my error go uncorrected, which meant another drive

to Temecula. So much for catching up on my work.

When I went back the next day, Jo-Ann's staff gave me an award reserved for their best employees, a pin shaped like a pair of scissors, and a card reading (I know, cards can't read): "Most honest customer. We appreciate you."

Okay, so I guess my world ain't so bad after all.



MEGA-Site for Writers

... JUNE 2008

PERILS of PUBLISHING: www.perilsofpublishing.com

My new site will be loaded with links for writers, plus other necessary junk. www.perilsofpublishing.com is your one-stop shopping place for all things writersesque, and all the info's FREE!

- Genre-Specific and General Writing-Related Links to Helpful Web Sites
- Literary Agency and Publishing House Links
- Samples Query Letters, etc.
- Workshop Handouts
- Writers-4-Writers Free Advertising (If you're a writer with a writing-related business, you can advertise free!)
- Weekly Industry News
- Blog (with interesting guests and me, ready to answer your questions about whatever)
- Accumulate Blog "**Posting Points**" (rewards program - points redeemable for fun writing prizes, advice, and edits!)

Opportunities to Participate:

- If you have a writing-related link to a Web site you love, please send it to comments@mortimerliterary.com with: P of P - Link / (whatever category it falls under-see below) PLEASE be accurate. I don't wanna kill my Xanax supply. If I include your link, you'll receive 5 Posting Points! If you've already sent a link, don't re-send.
- If you have a workshop handout that's helpful, I'll review it. If I include your handout, you'll receive credit and 10 Posting Points! Send to: comments@mortimerliterary.com with: P of P - Handout / (whatever category it falls under-see below) in the subject line.
- If you'd like to contribute anything for the Posting Points giveaways, Send to: comments@mortimerliterary.com with: P of P - Prizes / (type of prize) in the subject line. You'll get Posting Points depending on what you contribute, and my undying gratitude. Do a kind thing for me, and I'll never forget it.
- If you think you'd make a great blog guest, lemme know why. Send to: comments@mortimerliterary.com with: P of P - Blog / (whatever subject you wanna gab about) in the subject line.
- If you want something covered you don't see on the list below, please inform me. Send to: comments@mortimerliterary.com with: P of P - Idea / (whatever category it falls under-see below) in the subject line.
- If you're a writer with a writing-related business, I'll have a format for you soon, so hang in there.

Here are the categories so far:

GENERAL LINKS and INFO:

- GRAMMAR / SELF-EDITING
- LITERARY AGENCIES
- NEWS
- PROMOTION
- PUBLISHING HOUSES
- "TROUBLESOME TRIO&#xu201D; SAMPLES (Query Letter, Synopsis, Marketing Plan)
- WRITERS-4-WRITERS

GENRE-SPECIFIC LINKS and INFO

- CONTEMPORARY - Romance
- CONTEMPORARY - Women's Fiction
- FANTASY
- GENERAL FICTION

- HISTORICAL - Biblical
- HISTORICAL - Medieval
- HISTORICAL - Regency
- HISTORICAL - Renaissance
- HISTORICAL - Victorian
- HISTORICAL - Western
- HORROR
- INSPIRATIONAL
- LITERARY
- MYSTERY
- NON-FICTION
- PARANORMAL
- SCI-FI
- SUSPENSE - Romantic
- SUSPENSE - Thriller

Please distribute on all your loops so I get lots of great links and handouts. If you have a section of specific links on your site that all fit in one category, your site will be the link used!

It's possible (Ha! More like probable.) everything won't be up by June 1st, but some will be. I have a feeling this might take awhile, but you writers are worth it!

(Catch more "Dirt," Market Moves, Writing Opportunities, and New Imprints in the new weekly newsletter next Monday!)

 **Going, Going ... Gone!**

FICTION: WOMEN'S/ROMANCE

Robin Miller writing as Robin Caroll's BAYOU RESTITUTION, the final book in the author's Bayou series, about a woman with a bad reputation who takes in her juvenile delinquent brother, then becomes the target of a blackmailer; and the parole officer assigned to the case who's more interested in the woman than the minor, to Krista Stroeve at Steeple Hill Love Inspired Suspense, for publication in July 2009, by Kelly Mortimer at Mortimer Literary Agency.

 **Feature**

ROBIN MILLER STILL NEEDS OUR HELP!

This is not an American Christian Fiction Writers (ACFW) sponsored message.

Robin Miller w/a Robin Caroll: ACFW President, Christian author, my client, my friend, my sister; needs her mortgage paid thru Dec, 2008 (last payment due at the end of November), as her husband is unable to work. That's 2k a month. I'm accepting monthly pledges on her behalf in amounts from \$10.00 and up (per month), for 7 months. Also, one-time donations in any amount are warmly received.

Thanks to all who've participated. Robin made her mortgage payment last month because of you! God bless all those who contributed. Still have seven months to go, so pledges and one-time gifts are vital, or bid on one of my eBay auctions (see below).

Send me an e-mail if you plan to help, and lemme know if it's a one-time gift, or a monthly pledge. Make checks payable to **Kelly Mortimer (NOT Mortimer Literary-don't wanna haveta explain income that isn't income!)**. Send checks to:

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

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!

EDITOR AND AGENT EDITS THIS MONTH at MY eBay AUCTIONS!

Our Editor Volunteer This Month...

A wonderful women who doesn't know Robin Miller, but wants to help anyway. **Latoya Smith** from **Grand Central Publishing (formerly Warner)**. Latoya will read the winner's first three chapters and a short synopsis, 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.

Latoya reads all romance except historicals and inspirational. Right now she's lookin' to buy paranormals and fantasies, but other romance genres are welcome, including erotica (which I don't rep).

Latoya needs approximately 4-5 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: **GCP Editor Latoya Smith 3 Chapter Edit** in the search box. All proceeds (minus fees) go the Robin Miller Mortgage Fund. Latoya, you're da bomb, girl!

Our Agent Volunteer This Month...

All-around great gal, **Janet Benrey** of **Benrey Literary**, just nominated for the American Christian Fiction Writers "Agent of the Year Award," will read the first three chapters of your manuscript and a short synopsis, via e-mail, and offer suggestions on how to improve your work. ABA or CBA. In the Christian market: romantic suspense, romance, and historical romance. Secular: thriller, suspense, mystery, and women's fiction. She'll need 4-5 weeks to evaluate 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) to bid. Type: **Literary Agent Janet Benrey 3 Chapter Edit** in the search box. God bless you, Janet!

Any editor or agent who wishes to help Robin by reading and evaluating a partial through an eBay auction, please contact me.

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



Kelly Mortimer did her first radio interview with **Steve Bonenberger** of the **Business Talk Radio Network**. The show airs at different times in different cities. Not sure of the schedules of the local affiliates. To see the schedule, go to: <http://www.businesstalkradio.net/>

From there, you can track the locals. There are about 30 stations in the BTRN. Some pick up the show, and some don't. They get calls from all over the US. My interview will air tonight, 5/6/08, and tomorrow morning, I think!

Kelly Mortimer also snagged the monthly "Gotta Get It" column in the new magazine, **Christian Fiction Online**. I'll cover the latest in the industry with my special brand of snarky humor. This mag will be hot. Loaded with relevant info for every writer. See my next newsletter for more info. First issue out in June, God willing...

Undercover Marriage by **Kelly Ann Riley** finaled in the Inspirational Category of the Daphne du Maurier Award Contest for Excellence in Mystery/Suspense--Unpublished Division. Winners will be announced in July at RWA's National Conference. Wahoo!

Tread Softly: A Want Ad Mystery by **Kelly Ann Riley** won 1st Place in the Romantic Suspense category of the Sheila Contest (Valley Forge RWA chapter). The final round judge, Megan McKeever of Pocket Books, requested the full. So believable!

Kelly Mortimer is one of ten nominees for the American Christian Fiction Writers "Agent of the Year" Award for the second year in a row!

In July, **The Hot Seat** will interview the editor of **Christian Fiction Online Magazine**, **Michelle Sutton**. Learn all about this great new venture.

More about "Posting Points" rewards.

Hope y'all loved the newsletter. Ciao!
Kelly

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