



A Proud Chapter of
Romance Writers of America®

October 31, 2016

Volume XXIX, Issue 10

WELCOME TO CENTRAL OHIO FICTION WRITERS

COFW's October meeting was spent at the Upper Arlington Library's day-long "The Write Stuff" event. A business meeting was held in the library before members attended the lectures and workshops at the event.

For more great articles and news about your fellow COFWers, see inside.

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Central Ohio Fiction Writers (COFW) <http://cofwevents.org> is a non-profit professional association for romance writers and a local chapter of the Romance Writers of America (RWA) organization that offers monthly meetings. Since 1987, COFW has promoted excellence in fiction writing, encouraging writers to grow and gain knowledge in their craft. Members provide a networking system to share knowledge and support the goal of becoming published.

MINUTES OF THE COFW BUSINESS MEETING 10-15-2016

by Julia Blaine



Jane brought the meeting to order at the Upper Arlington Library, 2800 Tremont Rd. Columbus, Ohio at 10am. We chose to meet at this location because of the "Write Stuff" Program featured there.

Present for the meeting were Jane Connor, Robin Gianna, Saralee Etter, Tiffany Grinstead, Teresa Derlin, Jeanne Estridge, Andrea McConnell, Lisa Coffey and child, and Julia Blaine.

Robin reported that the **November** meeting would feature **Tracy Brogan**, a best-selling author who will speak about making a story from small moments. January will host a Published Author panel. February may be a Skype program with Donna Alward.

New officers will be voted on at the November meeting.

The **2017 Workshop** will be October 21 at the Courtyard Marriot Hotel, 2350 Westbelt Dr. Columbus, near Roberts Rd. and I-270.

Writing coach Larry Brooks, aka "The Storyfixer," author of six novels and three best-selling writing craft books, will present the program.

The **member of the year** will be announced at the December meeting. Please continue to vote by going to Yahoo>files.

We still need an **Incentives chairman for 2017**. Lisa Coffey announced that Sarah Zettler finaled in the San Francisco RWA contest with her YA book, "Leaving Hallow." She will find out in November where she placed. Julia Blaine just released a picture book. It is an adaption of "The Three Little Kittens," for Trick or Treat.

December 3 is our **Holiday Party** at Nancy White's condominium complex.



RECAP: THE WRITE STUFF AT THE UPPER ARLINGTON LIBRARY

by Julia Blaine

"The Write Stuff" was presented by the Upper Arlington Cultural Arts Division, the Upper Arlington Recreation Department, and the Upper Arlington Public Library on Saturday, October 15, 2016. It was held at the Upper Arlington Public Library, 2800 Tremont Rd., Columbus, Ohio.

Since this event fell on the normal meeting day of COFW, members agreed to participate. We were among several organizations with information tables. We were promoting our Workshop on October 18, 2017. The featured speaker will be Larry Brooks.

Other tables were staffed by SICCO (the local chapter of Sisters in Crime); the Ohioana Library; The Society of Children's Book Writers (SCBWI); and other organizations.

"The Write Stuff," was the second annual day of information and inspiration for writers with sessions and workshops by local authors.

Programs offered included:

"Creative to Analytical: Editing Your Fiction" & "Editing Your Fiction: Hands-On Workshop" with Faith Van Horne

Faith is a former editor for a traditional publisher. She spoke about analyzing your manuscript to avoid common problems editors see constantly.

"Scene Writing" & "Improving Your Fiction" with Karen Harper

Scenes are the bricks that build your story. A best-selling author of Suspense and Historical fiction, Karen shared secrets for writing scenes and insights to strengthen your fiction.

"Mining Your Memories" & "Digging Up Story Bones" with Jody Casella

Thought-provoking exercises to help turn your real-life experiences into great fiction and hands-on coaching to complete a finished story.

"Whiskey-5 Hotel: Thoughts on Writing Nonfiction" & "Whiskey-5 Hotel: Nonfiction Writing Workshop" with David Meyers

An author of local history books, David offered tips and help for writing nonfiction.

"Research Skills for Writers" & "Drop-In Research Help" with Megan Sheeran

Strategies, tools and reliable resources for writing and plot problems. Megan offered help with specific questions.

"Grounded and Laughing: The Poetry of Place" with Rikki Santer

Rikki is the author of poetry collections based on local locations. She offered those who attended an opportunity to write their own poems.

All programs were presented at no cost. Local authors were happy to share their expertise with material for beginning and veteran writers.



RECAP: FAITH VAN HORNE ON EDITING YOUR FICTION

by Julia Blaine

Faith Van Horne feels stories are very important. A really good story can change someone's life. Humans are voyeurs. (See how well tabloids sell.) Fiction is being with someone at a time when their life changes.

She is a former librarian and editor from a traditional New York publishing house. Writers want to gain the attention of editors but most material that arrives at an editor's office ends up in the "slush pile." The slush pile is where manuscripts end up if they are not immediately accepted by the publishing house. Usually the authors of these stories receive a rejection slip.

Faith's work in New York involved opening new material that arrived and deciding what to do with it. She also wrote rejection slips. It is a misconception that editors look for reasons to reject a manuscript. Faith tells us she looked for reasons to consider the material she received.

Currently, with mergers, there are only five major publishers.

Problems beyond your control that might lead to rejection could be:

- We just published a similar story.
- We have so many submissions right now that we cannot look at everything.

But there are ways you CAN control what happens to your book.

Faith found the largest number of manuscripts she rejected lacked a command of the English language. The problem is grammar. Get a handle on this. Take a course. Read a book and remember what you read. Let a friend who knows grammar read your work. But first she emphasizes, finish your first draft. And a second, a third and more.

She cited sentence flow and length of sentences. Use action words rather than adverbs. Content-wise, very little action can stop a story. Don't get involved with back story until the reader begins to care for the protagonists.

Readers nowadays are impatient. Trust that they will understand. Go for specific details such as germ phobia as an example. A character might fail an important job interview because she refuses to shake the hand of a man who just sneezed into it. The woman's choice moves the story. Introduce your character's flaw in the beginning. The writer must know the character.



FAITH VAN HORNE (CONT'D)

An editor might accept the beginning of the story but reject the rest. Authors sometimes mistake the inciting incident for story. The status quo does not apply. There must be a change to get the story started. Your hook need not be gimmicky. The reader wants to know what happens next.



Characters should not act inconsistently. Could you replace your hero with a potted plant? If so, he needs more depth. This can be controlled by Point of View (POV). This is how the reader travels with the character, by seeing things through his or her eyes. If you're in first or third POV, don't write things the reader can't know or see by being in the protagonist's head. If the reader is inside the character she really begins to know him. The dialogue reveals the character as well.

To be true to a character, don't "head-hop" or move from one character's POV to another without warning the reader. Don't switch mid-scene. Honor each character's experience. Don't switch back and forth.

Most stories are written in third person POV. (He or she does something.) The reader is not as close to the character in third person as they are in first person POV. More distant than third person is the omniscient POV, where the narrator knows everything. Sort of the author's POV. An individual character does not know this much.

To change POV, use a double space before continuing. That will alert the reader and save confusion.

These tips will help keep a manuscript out of the slush-pile. Your skills and unique story can catch the editor's eye and begin the journey to publication.

RECAP: DIGGING UP STORY BONES

by Julia Blaine

"Digging Up Story Bones," presented by Jody Casilla, a Columbus author, was part of "The Write Stuff," a program at the Upper Arlington Public Library Library on Saturday, October 15, 2016.

Jody is the author of the well-received YA novel, "Thin Space," the paranormal story of a lost boy. She stopped teaching to raise her family and now happily writes full-time. She has been writing since age seven. Sometimes she amuses her neighbors by walking barefoot in the snow as a research project. She also reviews books for Cover to Cover Bookstore. Once she was a business manager who sent rejection letters. It took her 15 years to become published herself.

Ninety percent of material that passes over an editor's desk is rejected. If you receive a handwritten note with your formula rejection letter, that is a good sign. Your book is in the 10% that is actually read.

STORY BONES (CONT'D)



Pay attention to anything you receive beyond a form letter. Follow up on any suggestion you are given.

"Digging Up Story Bones," is based on Stephen King's **On Writing**. King says the story is buried and we must dig up the bones to see what it is.

Don't talk about your story or the plot – write it!

Editing and revision strategies:

Jody used to revise each line as she wrote the first draft. The final product had perfect sentences but was not a novel.

Put your manuscript away for six months, in a drawer, before you look at it again.

Print it out in a different font. It gives you a different perspective, looking at it in print.

You are a reader then, not an author.

Writers don't want to delete. Do delete. If your purple prose needs to be saved, put it at the end of the story in a different font or in a new file to be looked at later.

Look at the story logically—the whole story. Drop things that don't fit.

Change the Point of View. Try using "she" instead of "I."

When you use dialogue, think about what the person knows and sees. Picture the person in the room.

It is hard to keep a big project's details in your head. Some authors cut the book apart to rearrange it on a story board like a cartoon. Use Post-its. You can print your story, 4 pages per page, to manage easier. Another way to keep track of facts is by using excel.

Writer's Block? Use craft books to help. Try brainstorming. Make lists. Find patterns. Just don't become too repetitive.

Consider each scene as a well-rounded entity.

Lie. It is OK to lie in fiction.



Julia Blaine comes from a long line of storytellers. As a child, she sat fascinated as her father, six uncles and grandfather sat on the hillside after a big family dinner to spin yarns; tall tales and strange occurrences they claimed to have lived through themselves.

Julia could not keep from telling stories herself. She writes mostly historical romances – sometimes with the touch of fantasy.

NEW RELEASES BY COFW MEMBERS!

Saralee Etter is indie-publishing three of her stories after getting the rights back from her publisher! All three will be available from Amazon starting November 3rd.

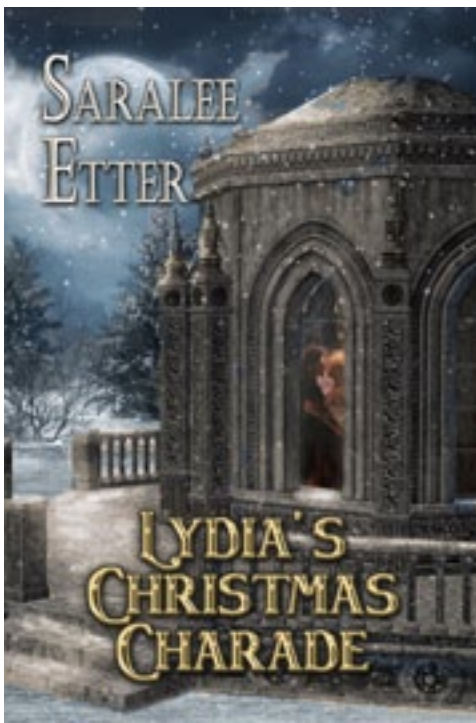
HER VERY MAJOR CHRISTMAS

by Saralee Etter

Rosalind Joslin is far from the sunny warmth of India, living in England and caring for her late husband's crusty Uncle Silas. That old gentleman is furious that his title is about to pass to the son of the black sheep of the family. By using all her medicinal and culinary skills, Rosalind hopes to bring the family together over a real English Christmas with holly and the traditional feast.

Major Harry Joslin never expected his cousin's death to thrust him into the unwanted role of nobleman. Now his relatives want him to marry a silly girl, but he much prefers the sweet and quiet widow. Will Major Harry let old Uncle Silas give him his marching orders, or will he find a bride of his own choosing?

Winter is the season of miracles and two wounded hearts may find love blooming in the depths of a snowy Christmas day.



LYDIA'S CHRISTMAS CHARADE

by Saralee Etter

Dutiful, practical Lydia Potts knew that her father, a wealthy commoner, planned to announce her engagement to a nobleman at their Christmas house party. But she didn't expect her prospective fiancé to be in love with another woman!

Anthony wasn't usually so reckless but something about the unknown lady's sweet manner and big pansy-brown eyes made him want to share a bit of juicy gossip with her. Everybody knew Lord Danville needed to marry an heiress to save his family from financial ruin, but nobody but Anthony would mention it to the heiress herself.

To fix the mess he's created, Anthony must woo Lydia on his noble friend's behalf—and Lydia will have to decide between duty and desire.

*This story features a character also seen in **A Limited Engagement**.*

NEW RELEASES BY COFW MEMBERS!



A LIMITED ENGAGEMENT

by Saralee Etter

As Miss Luce of Luxton Hall, Miranda always expected to make her debut at Almack's. But when her father's death leaves her penniless, the spirited young miss decides to embark on a career as an actress at her brother-in-law Edward's theater, rather than become a dependent poor relative. When Edward is wrongly arrested for debts, Miranda and her sister Mary have to come up with the funds to free him from debtors prison, or lose everything.

Lord Justin Devereux needs a fiancée—in a hurry! But the young nobleman has no intention of being maneuvered into marriage. Eager to take control of his inheritance and escape the brittle, unsatisfying social scene of the London Ton, he hires an actress who can act the part of his betrothed.

But when Justin hired Miranda, neither of them expected to fall in love...

ROMANCING CHRISTMAS 2

by various authors

From sweet to spicy, friends to lovers, from cowboys to babies and puppies, this holiday anthology from 7 of today's hottest romance authors has something for everyone. Toss in some unconventional romances and fairy godmothers—and, of course, some hunky military heroes—and you've got a Christmas collection that will warm the heart on even the coldest night.

Mason's Wish by Dale Mayer

Christmas Stray by Rachelle Ayala

A Low Country Christmas Miracle by Sandy Loyd

Scrooge & the Secret Santa by Marcia James

Strangers in the Night by KT Roberts

Christmas Grace by Leslie Lynch

A Christmas Bowser by Kayce Lassiter



NEW RELEASES BY COFW MEMBERS!

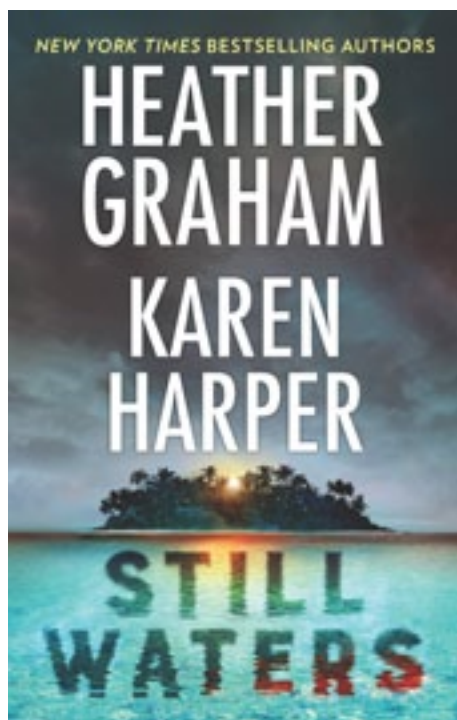
THE SOUTHERN COMFORT CHRISTMAS

by Barbara Lohr

A Christmas wedding threatens to become Civil War II when the parents of Harper and Cameron enter the planning.

The Southern Comfort Christmas releases on November 15.

Fun FB Bridal Shower on November 16.



STILL WATERS

Two Florida friends and *New York Times* bestselling authors team up for a double dose of romantic suspense in *STILL WATERS* from Mira Books.

Karen Harper's novel is ***Below the Surface***.

Briana Devon knows her twin sister would never deliberately leave her, but when she surfaces after a dive, Daria and their boat have vanished. Fighting rough waves and a fast approaching storm, Bree barely makes it to shore, where Cole De Roca revives her. Bound to Cole by the harrowing experience, she seeks his help as she struggles to understand what happened to her sister—and what her twin, whom she thought she knew so well, might be hiding.

A great cold weather double read!

WELCOME TO HAVEN HARBOR

by various authors, including Donna MacMeans

Set in the world of Jeanne Adams' *Witches Walk*, the anthology of five spooky romances takes place in the fictional town of Haven Harbor, Massachusetts. This lovely New England town is the home of the renegade witches who fled Salem prior to the infamous Witch Trials. The annual Walk is a recreation of the first Witches' Walk, and it takes place right around Halloween—which culminates in the Haven Harbor Halloween Ball.

Be sure to check out Donna MacMean's story, "Hollywood Ghost," which introduces the character of Chelsea, a descendant of Lucinda from ***Bound by Moonlight***.



FIVE MORE PRODUCTIVITY TIPS FOR WRITERS

By Saralee Etter

Last month, we talked about mindset and habits, and how to set up the routines that will help us be prepared to be a more productive writer. This month's tips will be about increasing production within the time you've got.



1. Writing faster

Try this timed exercise:

Set your timer for 5 minutes.

Write as fast as you can for those 5 minutes, telling me who you are and why you want to be a writer.

Now consider your results:

How many words did you get down? 500 words? 700 words?

Would you say that's more words than you usually produce in such a limited amount of time?

Most people are surprised at how many words they can produce in just five minutes when writing about a subject they know well and have thought about a lot.

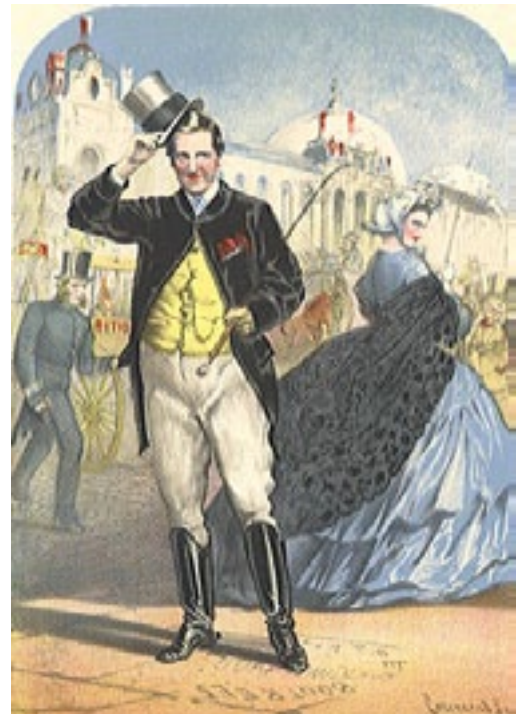
The idea is, how can you prepare yourself with a similar deep understanding of what you're going to be writing about in a particular scene in your book? If you really know what's going to happen next in your story, it is a lot easier to crank out the word count.

Which leads us to...

2. Take off your pants (no, not like that, silly!)

Libbie Hawker's book, *Take off your pants!* helps both plotters and pantsers by helping writers approach the story in an organized fashion. While she advocates working out the story in advance as plotters do, she offers tips for creating just enough story structure to let pantsers enjoy the freedom they need to keep a story fresh while offering them the chance to develop a story direction in advance so that they're not struggling in the "muddled middle."

Knowing what you're going to write when you sit down to write it helps to avoid procrastination and struggle.



FIVE TIPS (CONT'D)

3. Use dictation – write faster by not writing at all

Using speech recognition programs like **Dragon Naturally Speaking** and others will let you speak instead of type your words, lessening the chance for carpal tunnel while speeding up the process of getting your first draft down.

There is a learning process in trying to make the best use of the programs but there is a lot of support out there on the Internet.

There's the Dragon Riders Facebook group you may want to explore. Also, Monica Leonelle's **Dictate your Book** is a good resource.

For a great short intro to using speech recognition, check out the "Author Level Up" Youtube channel with Michael La Ronn <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KHqyA8312jA>.

He describes how it works, what equipment you might need, and offers a good demonstration.



4. Embrace boredom

Most of us are surrounded by distractions every moment of the day. We never have a moment in which to get bored, never have to rely on our own imaginations to entertain ourselves.

But it's just when we are bored, when we have nothing to distract us, that the ideas for our stories can percolate up into our consciousness.



So, let yourself relax. Let yourself play around with your story. If there's nothing in your environment to distract you, your writing can flow. A very interesting and thoughtful book on the subject is **Deep Work**, by Cal Newport. How can you get free from all those distractions? Try the Freedom app <https://freedom.to/>

When you're not writing, ask yourself: Is this incubation or procrastination? Writing a story paradoxically includes not-writing. Artists need to "fill the well" with ideas and experiences before our work can bear fruit.

When incubation is happening, the artist is experiencing things and mentally fitting them into the story – would your hero or heroine act like this? Is this a potential element in the story or in their relationship? What would hero/heroine say or do if they were present

FIVE TIPS (CONT'D)

beside me right here, right now?

For more on Filling the Well, see Julia Cameron's classic book, *The Artist's Way*.

In contrast, procrastination is fleeing the work, instead of letting it percolate.

5. Take a nap

Sometimes that mid-afternoon slump is a sign that the brain needs a little time to reset itself, said Mark McGuinness in *Productivity for Creative People* (free right now) <http://lateralaction.com/articles/productivity-for-creative-people/>

But there's a right way to nap—just 20 minutes will do it. Set a timer for 25 minutes, stretch out, and rest. But don't think you can just snuggle in for a couple of hours! Naps lasting longer than 20 minutes will leave you feeling groggy.

A short nap in the mid-afternoon might be just what you need to jump back into the productivity game with all the energy you need.

Try these techniques, and let me know!



After years of writing newspaper articles, public relations releases, and legal briefs, Saralee Etter published three sweet Regency romances with the Cotillion line.

Those three stories will be available on Amazon on November 3, 2016!

As Rose Maybud she published the sexy contemporary, [Something in the Coffee](#)

Now she is working on a Victorian murder mystery series featuring Lucy Turner, who eventually marries William S. Gilbert of Gilbert & Sullivan fame.

*The first book, **A Short Sharp Shock**, will be coming soon.*

*You can find Saralee at www.saraleeetter.com and at her blog, **A Fine Mystery Indeed**, www.saraleeetter.com/blog1*

FACEBOOK FOR AUTHORS: THINGS YOU CAN DO FOR FREE

by Rebecca Rivard

The following article first appeared in the October 2016 issue of the quarterly newsletter of the Maryland Romance Writers chapter of RWA.

Facebook has moved to a pay-to-play model. Unless you pay to boost a post, only a small percentage of people are going to see anything you share. However, that doesn't mean you can't reach readers for free. Here are some things that have worked for me.

Join a Facebook Group in Your Genre or Subgenre

There are a number of groups on Facebook where authors can post teasers and book releases for free. Just make sure you read the group rules. For example, some groups request you post promotional materials no more than once a week or only on certain days.

You should also engage in the group at other times. Groups tend to ignore authors who just post about their own releases—and I don't blame them. I try to like and comment on other authors' posts (or readers' post) at least once or twice a week.

Examples of book groups I'm part of: The Wolf Pack (shifter romance), Sinfully Delicious Reads (sexy), and Authors & Books & Readers (general romance).

Can't find a group that fits your genre or subgenre? Post in the general groups like the Hungry Bookworms or iBooks Readers and Authors. A friend of mine just started a group for paranormal readers who have Kindle Unlimited.

Start Your Own Group

You can also start your own group with other similar authors. For example, start a group for steampunk lovers or for people who read sweet romance.



Another idea is a group just for your ARC readers or street team. Even a small group can pay off big since these are your most avid, engaged readers.

Post Frequently on Your Author Page

The more you engage people on your author page, the more people will see your posts (although Facebook only shows each post to a tiny percentage of the people who have liked your page). But what to post? A general rule-of-thumb is that FB loves visuals, so learn to make teasers on PhotoShop or Canva, and consider posting videos as well.

FACEBOOK FOR AUTHORS (CONT'D)

Here are some suggestions:

1. Post teasers or comments about your current WIP or a book you are promoting. Or, you could post a couple of lines for #TeaserTuesday or #1lineWednesday. (The same post could also go on Twitter and Instagram.)

2. Hold a giveaway in your newsletter that encourages people to like, comment and share a Facebook post about your new book. Yes, you'll pay the cost of the giveaway, but you can give away a \$10 gift card or eBook and receive tens or even hundreds of likes, comments and shares. Important: Make sure you read Facebook's rules on using a post as part of a giveaway.

3. Post cool videos that relate to your author brand—or make a video of your own. For example, I recently posted a video of my incredibly cluttered desk with a comment that “creating a book is a messy process.” (The video has had close to 100 views.) And a book trailer that I created for \$70 has had more than 1,000 views.

4. Share a live video on Facebook. Announce your new release and then read a few lines from the book. Or, announce the winner of your latest giveaway.



These are just a few suggestions—you can google more ideas or see what your author friends are doing. In general, only about 10 percent of your posts should promote your book.

Readers want to get to know you. If you're not comfortable posting personal info about yourself or your family, post about hot guys or cute animals or your shoe addiction.

Rebecca Rivard is the author of the Fada Shapeshifters series, featuring dark shifters, sexy fae, and other magical creatures. You can find out more about her on her website, <http://rebeccarivard.com/> or visit her [Facebook author page](#).

HOW TO TRAVEL THE WORLD WITHOUT GETTING ON A PLANE

by Eliza Knight

The following article first appeared in the October 2016 issue of the quarterly newsletter of the Maryland Romance Writers chapter of RWA.

Ed.: We all write things we don't know firsthand. Bestselling historical romance author Eliza Knight is here to tell us how to get those fabulous setting details right without overwhelming our travel budgets.

That's right, you read that correctly! But chances are, you already know that you don't have to go anywhere to build a world. As writers, we have very vivid imaginations. We spend our days escaping into the realms that we've created, building landscapes for our readers to traverse. Sometimes, we're lucky enough to visit the places we write about, and other times, we have to take advantage of what we have at our fingertips.

The best way to immerse a reader into your world is to strike them at their senses: sight, sound, smell, touch, taste.

When I'm writing a scene, I like to close my eyes in complete quiet and imagine that I'm sitting smack in the center of my imaginary world. What do I see? What do I hear? What do I smell? What do I feel on my skin? What can I taste? All of these sensory details are what my reader will experience through the character. I want them to be as vivid and true as possible.

Are you ready to travel? These are a few tips on how I "get" there.

Sight/Sound

GoogleMaps: I use GoogleMaps almost daily. I use it to see the places on the map, visit them through satellite images (zooming in and "walking" around). You can also use it to get from point A to point B, walking or driving.

Travel Blogs: These are great because you can see it from another person's perspective, see their pics, and also pick up on tiny tidbits that you might not have been privy to from an official travel website. For example, you might learn that everyone in a particular town avoids a certain road because it's believed to be haunted, or that Bess at the tavern makes the best muffins, but Nell at the bakery makes the best Bailey's spiked hot-cocoa. You get the point.

Sight-seeing websites: These are great if you are writing about a place and you want your characters to visit or live in the vicinity. For me, castle websites are great because I learn about the history and can take virtual tours.



TRAVEL ... (CONT'D)

YouTube: YouTube may be one of my favorites! I've been able to watch travel videos (professional, amateur, tourist), documentaries, cooking shows, learn to dance in an Elizabethan court, listen to medieval music, listen to dialect, etc... You can literally find EVERYTHING on YouTube.

TripAdvisor: More personal anecdotes, pictures, tips, etc...

People: Talk to anyone who has been there! Find out what they know!

Library: Check out books about where you want to write!

Your Own Backyard: Believe it or not, we can often find places "similar" to where we want to travel. One of the reasons I love hiking so much is that I can pretend I'm in a medieval forest. If you write historicals, check out a local Renn Faire, Medieval Times, museums, visit a lake, a forest. If you write contemporary, take advantage of the same sort of atmospheres! Is your heroine a marathon runner? Maybe you should start with a 5K. Is your hero into hot cars? Check out a local car show. Watch the sunrise or set, stare at the stars, put your bare feet in the grass, and let the rain drip on your face. The world is literally at your fingertips, all you have to do is open your eyes.

Scent

This one can be a bit tough, but here are a few things I do...

Scented Candles (I even found a peat smoke one!)
Incense.

Cooking/Eating/Drinking.

Perfume/Cologne.

Visit a place near you that may have the same "scents." For example, if you want to smell horses, visit the local equestrian center.



Taste

Try cooking some of the things in your story!

Want to know what it tastes like to kiss after eating baked apples? Give it a shot.

Touch

This one can be tougher, but you can try! Visit a fabric shop to feel fabrics, take a fencing class, and re-read my note above about exploring things in your own backyard. (Be careful about asking hot dudes in public if you can touch their abs for research... lol)

TRAVEL ... (CONT'D)

I hope these tips help you immerse yourself into your world! Open your mind. Do a bit of brainstorming, and above all, HAVE FUN!

MRW member Eliza Knight is an award-winning and USA Today bestselling indie author of over fifty sizzling historical romance and erotic romance. Under the name E. Knight, she pens rip-your-heart-out historical fiction. She lives atop a small mountain with her own knight in shining armor, three princesses and two very naughty puppies. Visit Eliza's website <http://eknightauthor.com/> or her historical blog [History Undressed](#). You can also find her on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).



A LITTLE EXTRA INSIGHT INTO MAILCHIMP

by Saralee Etter

I found a really good resource on Mailchimp the other day—it's a free tutorial on YouTube from a writer named Christine Niles. She can be found at [christineniles.info](#).

Christine's free tutorial is called "Demystifying Mailchimp." I thought it was really excellent. I'm sure there is some way to get it through her website, but I wasn't able to find it that way. (I think it's a free gift that you can sign up for, but you probably have to search for "Demystifying Mailchimp" on her home page to find the link.)

However, the tutorial itself is online. Check it out at

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AP0Q_Bc-h2U&feature=youtu.be&t=48m13s



WORKS IN PROGRESS

Julia Blaine: Children's Picture Book, *Three Little Cats – a Trick or Treat Story* (based on "The Three little Kittens," rhyme) is available to sell at the Circleville Pumpkin Show and elsewhere.

Lisa Coffey: "Leah's Story." (She brought her lovely and very young child)

Tara/Teresia Devlin: Regency WIP.

Jeanne Estridge: Contemporary "Girl's Best Friend."

Saralee Etter: Getting geared up to launch 3 self-published Regency stories—two Christmas novellas, one full-length novel—in November.

Robin Gianna: Starting a new Medical Romance.

Tiffany Grinstead: "Painless."

Andrea McConnell (aka Lena Welston) "The British Captain," almost done.

Eva Siedler: "Goth Cheerleaders and other signs of the Apocalypse."



COFW 2016 LEADERSHIP

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