



May 01. 2018.

Volume XXX. Issue 04.

## Welcome to Central Ohio Fiction Writers Newsletter

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Newsletter Editor, Sandra J. Kachurek

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.

May 1, 2018/Issue 04/Volume XXX/1

**♥ Central Ohio Fiction Writers ♥**  
**Proud Chapter of the Romance Writers of America®**

**2018 Leadership**

President, Jenessa McRoy <[jenessahl@gmail.com](mailto:jenessahl@gmail.com)>  
Secretary, Susan Heino <[susan\\_gee\\_heino@yahoo.com](mailto:susan_gee_heino@yahoo.com)>  
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Membership Chair, Linda Rice <[lindarice05@gmail.com](mailto:lindarice05@gmail.com)>  
Social Media Chair, Andrea McConnell <[fyrefly93@gmail.com](mailto:fyrefly93@gmail.com)>  
Incentives, Julia Blaine <[julmassie@aol.com](mailto:julmassie@aol.com)>

**Meetings**

First "Teen" Saturday of the Month.  
Social: Noon to 12:30. Business: 12:30. Guest Presentation: 1:30.

**Location**

Norwich Township Building  
5181 Northwest Parkway. Hilliard, OH 43026

**Dues [Must also join RWA.]**

Renewal before January 31: \$25.  
After January 31: \$30.

**Follow COFW**

**Twitter** <https://twitter.com/COFWriters>

**Facebook** <https://facebook.com/COFWriters>

**Closed Facebook Group**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/177462723049177/>

**Central Ohio Fiction Writers**

P.O. Box 24254  
Dayton, OH 45424

May 1, 2018/Issue 04/Volume XXX/2

# **The Next COFW Meeting**

**May 19**

## **Brainstorming and Critiquing Stories and Story Ideas**



**Unsure about the next plot point?**

**Questioning how your story sounds so far?**

**Wondering if a story possibility is possible?**

**Members will form small groups.**

**Everyone will have an opportunity to share where she is in her story writing and to ask the group for input.**

**Someone will take notes, if needed.**

**Bring your stories, your outlines, your ideas.**

**June 16**

**Danielle Barclay**

## **Publicity and Marketing Tips**

**Danielle Barclay, Owner and Marketing and Publicity Director of Barclay Publicity.**



Danielle is the owner of [Barclay Publicity](#), a boutique public relations agency specializing in author publicity and book promotion. She started her career in publishing close to 20 years ago, honing her sales skills as an advertising account executive and working as a freelance marketing consultant.

Before founding Barclay Publicity, she held the position of publicity director at Entangled Publishing, helping launch and brand six of the company's twelve imprints. She also provided publicity support for the RT Booklovers Convention in 2010 and 2011.

As an industry recognized award winning social media expert, she has created and implemented over 700 publicity campaigns. She conducts presentations for writers groups and has a passion for mentoring aspiring and debut authors.

As a public relations professional, Danielle strives to get her clients in the right place to connect with readers so they can tell their story to as many people as possible. Aside from her marketing responsibilities, she also acts as copywriter, media buyer, and graphic designer for the company.

She has worked with numerous *New York Times* bestselling authors including Shannon McKenna, Sarah Castille, Sharon Hamilton, Tracy Wolff, Noelle Adams, Katee Robert, Gina Maxwell, Jennifer Probst, Laura Kaye, Jennifer L. Armentrout, and Tawny Weber.

July 14

## Robin Yocum

Robin Yocum is an award-winning author whose critically acclaimed novel *Favorite Sons* was named the 2011 USA Book News Book of the Year for Mystery/Suspense and a Choose to Read Ohio Selection for 2013-14.



*Dead Before Deadline* is a compilation of stories from his days as a crime beat reporter with the *Columbus-Dispatch*. His latest and fifth novel, *A Perfect Shot*, will be available in April 2018. Its setting is the industrial town of Mingo Junction, Ohio.

Robin draws inspiration for his stories from a life growing up in the steel mill towns of the Ohio River Valley with its unique landmarks, neighborhoods and people. Robin joined the *Columbus-Dispatch* as a reporter in 1980 and worked there for 11 years, spent four years on the crime beat, followed by a post as a reporter on the investigative desk. He has won over 30 local, state and national awards while at the paper.



August 18

## 2018 RWA National Conference Recap

Listen to the stories from members who attended sessions you couldn't fit into your schedule or if you weren't able to experience RWA's event of the year yourself.



**September 15**

**J. Leigh Bailey**

***Mastering the Meet-Cute in Romance Fiction***

The very first encounter between the romantic leads of your story sets the tone for the rest of the book. This encounter either pulls the reader deeper into the story or makes them decide the book isn't for them.

The meet-cute is the quirky, funny, sexy, and/or memorable way two people meet for the first time. It has been used for decades in film, television, and novels as a way to get the audience immediately sucked into the romantic storyline.

This presentation will use examples from popular movies, television shows, and books to identify the main characteristics of an effective meet-cute, to recognize the basic formulas and tropes of the meet-cute, and to explore ways to create fresh versions of this classic plot device.

J. Leigh Bailey is an office drone by day and the author of Young Adult and New Adult LGBT Romance by night. She can usually be found with her nose in a book or pressed up against her computer monitor.



A book-a-day reading habit sometimes gets in the way of ... well, everything ... but some habits aren't worth breaking.

A reader of romance novels since she was ten, the last 20 years or so have not changed her voracious appetite for stories of romance, relationships and achieving that vitally important Happy Ever After.

J. Leigh Bailey's a firm believer that everyone, no matter their gender, age, sexual orientation or paranormal affiliation, deserves a happy ending.

<http://jleighbailey.net/>

**October 13**

**Suzanne Sabol on Story Mapping**

[Suzanne M. Sabol](#) is the author of urban fantasy and paranormal romance. Book 7 in her *Blushing Death* series, *Violet Abyss*, was released last May 2017. Her latest, *Sliver of Silver*, is coming soon.

Suzanne has been writing from age 16 when she finished her first full-length novel. She graduated from The Ohio State University with a major in Criminology, International Studies, Russian and Political Studies.

She married her wonderful husband, Ross, who makes sure her books don't have too much gore ... because there could be more. They live in Columbus with their daughter, Scarlet.



 **Write-In for November 17** 

**Location to Be Announced.**

**Coinciding with National Novel Writing Month, NaNoWriMo, COFW is hosting a day of writing.**

**Bring laptops, paper, pencils, pens.  
Together, we'll create the motivation.**



**❄ December 2018 ❄**

**Members-Only Holiday Party  
Bring food to share.  
Date and Location to be Set.**



## **COFW Fiction Plotters Meet Monthly**

Can't get your protagonist out of a hole you've written her into?

Not sure whether the antagonist is antag-ing enough?

Need a boost with a story idea that has yet to see words on a page?

Consider stopping by the COFW Fiction Plotters group.

They meet the first Wednesday of the month at 10 a.m. at the Panera Bread in Taylor Square in Reynoldsburg, Ohio, 43068.

To ensure members are meeting and to stay in touch in between, they use this email: [cofwplot@yahoo.com](mailto:cofwplot@yahoo.com)

If you have questions, contact:

Andrea McConnell: [fyrefly93@gmail.com](mailto:fyrefly93@gmail.com)

Saralee Etter: [saralee\\_etter@yahoo.com](mailto:saralee_etter@yahoo.com)

## **Rules for Closed Facebook Group @COFWriters**

Same rules apply in the FB group as apply on our COFW email loop.

- ♥ You must be a COFW member to join.
- ♥ No one can see the posts unless they are a member of the group.
- ♥ This does NOT replace the email loop.
- ♥ This does NOT replace the COFW website.
- ♥ You need to go the the FB group page and click on the join button as FB Group membership is entirely optional.
- ♥ Find it here: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/177462723049177/>



## Minutes, Treasury Report, Attendance for April 14, 2018 Norwich Township Building, Hilliard

President Jenessa McRoy convened the meeting at 12:40 p.m. There were 22 attendees and one guest. Introductions were made and Works in Progress sheet was distributed, along with name tags.

### **Perseverance Fund**

Jenessa explained that RWA maintains a fund to assist members with dues and other expenses in a hardship situation. The fund is in need of donations, so she encouraged members to donate. Also, those who might need such assistance should contact the RWA office.



*Programs Chair Aleta Dodson (l) arranged for Maddie James, April's special guest and COFW member, to give her talk on writing a series.*

We were reminded that COFW has a similar fund for our members.

Donations are always welcome, and if you need assistance--up to \$75 over a limited period of time of three years and you must be a COFW member for a year before being eligible. Please contact one of our board members. A few members have made use of this in the past and it is always kept confidential.

### **Code of Conduct**

RWA has issued an updated Code of Conduct, and it has been added to the

RWA by-laws. COFW must approve these and add them to our chapter by-laws if we are to continue being an RWA chapter. Jenessa will soon post them to the COFW loop, and we will vote to adopt them electronically.

She explained that RWA felt this was necessary because some chapters had trouble with members' conduct. COFW has not experienced issues with this

and the code issued by RWA lines up with our current chapter behaviors.

### **Discussion of Recent Reports of Racial Bias**

One of the reasons for the issuance of this Code of Conduct is the persistent racism in certain areas of the romance industry. RWA could find no evidence that any person of color has ever received a RITA award and many best-selling, highly acclaimed authors have been passed over for nominations.

Several COFW members in attendance discussed recent statements issued by RWA condemning racial bias and committing to making our national organization more inclusive and diverse. Members discussed reports of blatant racism within one of the large romance publishing houses, and everyone agreed this should not be tolerated.

No motion was made, but the attitude of those in attendance seemed to be that there is no place for racism in romance. Suggestions were made that we should all be more mindful of seeking out diversity in our reading, purchasing and reviewing habits. Also, as members of COFW we will look for opportunities to be more welcoming and inviting to a diverse membership. [For stats and additional commentary, see reprint article, "What Makes a Real Heroine?" in this issue.]

### **Incentives**

Julia Blaine Massie managed to find reasons to pass out reward goodies to just about everyone this month! We were happy to see that our members are busy writing, submitting, selling and winning contests. Julia herself was celebrating the upcoming release of her first book with Soul Mate Publishing, due early in May.

### **Newsletter**

Sandra Kachurek was applauded for another wonderful newsletter. She explained that there had been some glitches with the past issue, but eventually it went out on time and in great condition. She encouraged members to submit news items and articles by mid-month so she can include in the next newsletter. Reminder: COFW pays \$15 for articles selected for

publication.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Jeanne Estridge gave her report and there were no questions. Checking: \$7564.50. PayPal: \$1140.81. Financial Assistance Savings Account: \$1564.54. Total Assets: \$10269.85.

Meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m. to prepare for presentation by author and COFW member Maddie James.



*April's COFW presentation by Maddie James drew many members.  
(Photo by Shari Heinrich)*

## **Attendance and Works in Progress**

01. Stacy McKittrick: one-third finished with Book 8.
02. Shari Heinrich: draft three of *Queen of Wands* and plot point fixes.
03. Linda Rice: participated in Kiss of Death Book-in-a-Week.
04. Maddie James: *Harbor Falls* romance, Book 7.
05. Janice Beckett: second book in *Horses Heal Hearts* series.
06. Saralee Etter: writing *Her Wild Irish Rogue*.

07. Jane Conner: I haven't been writing yet.
08. Linda B. Munn: revising *Another Love Story*.
09. Sandy Rice: first draft of *Man of Shadows*.
10. Donna MacMeans: *To Bait a Rake*.
11. Beck Barker: new contemporary, *Deeper than Love*.
12. Julia Blaine: *Adrian's Pearl* is to come out end of May.
13. Sandy Kachurek: reworking chapter one.
14. Aleta Dodson: finishing series set in Nashville.
15. Rachel Dye: editing *Marked by the Fae*.
16. Gina Smith: editing Book 2 in my *Fortuna, TX* series.
17. Alice Vossbrinck: trying to decide.
18. Jeanne Estridge: *The Demon Wore Stilettos*, Book 3.
19. Tanja Fazzari: second book on paranormal.
20. Jenessa McRoy: historical WIP.
21. Marcia Anderson: launched a new website and newsletter and grew my subscriber list.
22. Susan Gee Heino: creating newsletter, writing *Rogue of the Greenwood* for September release.



**COFW Secretary, Susan Gee Heino's** first love is lighthearted Regency romance, but she also write contemporary. Under her pen name Serena Gilley, she writes *The Forbidden Realm* fantasy romance series. In 2008, she won an RWA Golden Heart® Award for Best Regency Historical.

# COFW Member and Guest Presenter, Maddie James *Just One More: The Series Addiction*

By Saralee Etter

Do you love a series? Should you *write* a series?

At the April meeting, Maddie James helped COFW members explore the possibilities surrounding a multi-book endeavor.

Maddie James is an Amazon best-selling romance author published worldwide in at least seven languages. She also writes as Sophie Jacobs. Her long career includes writing novels for Kensington, running her own small publishing house called Turquoise Morning Press, and penning nearly 40 novels and novellas.

To kick off her presentation, Maddie divided up the group into three teams who explored the following questions: What do we love about series? What do we dislike about series? What worries us about series?

The different teams came up with answers that, not surprisingly, echoed the responses given by Maddie's own informal survey of her readers.

Things we love about series:

1. Recurring characters. This was the biggest draw for readers and authors as well. Readers love to revisit the characters they have come to enjoy spending time with. Authors often feel that the main character is a special favorite of



*Writing as Maddie James and Sophie Jacobs, Kim Jacobs begins her presentation from personal and professional experiences.*

theirs, and they want to explore different facets of the character's personality. A series is like revisiting an old friend.

2. A favorite premise or story.

3. The author's voice, the setting/world, or the same "heat" (in romance); however, setting is usually surprisingly low on a reader's stated list of best-liked elements.

Things we dislike about series:

1. Cliffhangers! Although a few readers don't mind them, many readers get frustrated when a novel ends on a cliffhanger, and they have to wait for months until the resolution is revealed.



*Stacy McKittrick (left back), Gina Smith (sitting), Julia Blaine (middle back), Rachel Dye and Janice Beckett list their Dislikes about writing or reading a series.*

2. Having to say goodbye to beloved characters.

3. When the author doesn't keep accurate track of details. Discrepancies in a character's appearance or forgetting what they did/said earlier on can throw a reader right out of the story.

Not surprisingly, many authors who contemplate writing a series are worried about falling short in the same areas that readers have complained about, including not keeping proper track of details, not having story ideas to write about, meeting deadlines, and choosing the best series idea to invest one's time and energy in.

The good news is if you're thinking about writing a series, you are not alone in these worries. Therefore, even if one is a pantsner in writing style, planning



the series is the best approach.

The elements to consider when planning a series include:

1. The story concept.
2. Planning and commitment.
3. World building.
4. Characters.
5. Branding and marketing.

The **story concept** has to do with whether you have enough material to last over several books. There ought to be an overarching conflict or premise and enough connections between books to link them together. Also, it makes sense to consider whether the stories should be read in order, or if they can be read as stand-alone books.

The **planning and commitment** has to do with how the books connect from one to the other. Conventional wisdom has it that a series should be released in relatively quick succession. An author must be ready to release the next book on a planned schedule. The schedule will create deadlines for the author to meet. In addition, an author might want to create intermediate works, such as novellas or short stories, that can fit in between full-length novels.



*Secretary Susan Gee Heino shares her group's reasons to Worry about writing or reading a series.*

**World-building** is a powerful tool. Readers are drawn to a well-managed world even if they don't mention it first in a survey. Most readers and authors assume that world-building pertains to science fiction, fantasy or historical settings, but all fictional worlds must be carefully built.

Even if a story is set in a familiar, contemporary setting, the author must pay attention to establishing the particular details that make it come to life, including maps, food, speech patterns, social norms



and widely-held beliefs.

**Characters** are the biggest draw in any story, and most readers like recurring main characters.

Even when a story may not allow for a single main character to come back, such as in a romance where the main character finds true love by the end of the story, readers will appreciate the character's return in a secondary role in another book. In Maddie's survey, 99% of readers expressed a desire for a secondary character to eventually have a story of their own.

**Branding and marketing** is a very large topic on its own.

Branding is very important for a series so readers can find related stories easily through similar titles, cover art and series title names that tie the series together.

Marketing refers to setting the price, offering discount days, planning advertising and cooperative promotions and establishing a release plan for each book in a series.

Most retailers like a 30/60/90 release schedule. If there is a longer than three-month hiatus between releases, an author should consider adding a novella or short story to the plan.

In terms of marketing a series, an indie-published author may consider offering the first book in the series as a perma-free option [Book 1 is always free.] and hope readers will buy the next titles in the series, one book at a time.

Related materials, such as cookbooks or guidebooks to the fictional world, can be a good idea.

If an indie author writes a short story taking place in the novels's fictional world, it might be a good idea to connect with other authors in the same

genre and publish a multi-author box set.

For more information on how to leverage a series, consult Maddie's powerpoint slides, which are in the "Files" section on the COFW Yahoo loop.

Finally, Maddie discussed the difference between a *series* and a *serial*.

A book *series* consists of several complete, full-length novels linked together by a common element. Any book that is part of a series can be read as a stand-alone story. A *serial* is a single book/story broken up into separate episodes, each one ending in a cliffhanger. The episodes must be read in sequence for the story to make sense.

At the end of her presentation, Maddie held a question and answer period to make sure she had responded to all questions about writing a series.

Given the popularity of series these days, it would not be surprising to find that a number of COFW members have decided to give writing a series a try.



**Saralee Etter** is the author of three traditional Regency romances. Her next book, coming during the summer 2018, will be part of the *Legend to Love* Regency romance series, with a protagonist based on the legendary Irish hero Cuchulain. She is still working on *A Short Sharp Shock*, the first book in a Victorian-set mystery series featuring sleuth Lucy Turner and her friends, William S. Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan.

[www.saraleeetter.com](http://www.saraleeetter.com) and *A Fine Mystery Indeed*, at [www.saraleeetter.com/blog1](http://www.saraleeetter.com/blog1)

## ☆☆☆ *Stellar News* ☆☆☆

*What have you done recently to get one step closer to achieving a contract, perfecting your business, connecting with your readers? Let's celebrate your efforts.*

☆ *Alicia Anthony*: *Inherent Lies*, her paranormal romance, is a finalist in Wisconsin RWA's Fab Five Contest. <http://wisrwa.org/>

May 1 Release

## Tempted by a Brooding Surgeon

Robin Gianna

The only man who won't let her in ... is the only man she wants!



Annabelle Richards arrives in Peru to find she'll be working with renowned surgeon Daniel Ferrera--the man who almost ruined her career.

She's worked too hard to let him get in her way again. But when Annabelle learns that Daniel's brooding exterior hides a wealth of pain, an unexpected passion ignites between them.

Will temptation prove too much to resist?

**Robin Gianna joined COFW in 2004** as a naive newbie. "Being a member has been hugely important to my growth as a writer and eventual publishing contract with Harlequin/Mills & Boon. From my very first meeting, members were friendly and inclusive, always generous with their knowledge and happy to share their experiences and expertise with me. Writing is mostly a solitary endeavor, and it's easy to get discouraged. Spending time with other authors has always been the boost I need to feel excited again. COFW and RWA gives me exactly that!"



When she's not writing, Robin's life is filled with a happily messy kitchen, a needy garden, a wonderful husband, three great kids, a drooling bulldog and one grouchy Siamese cat. <http://www.robingianna.com/>

## Lita Lawson Re-Releases

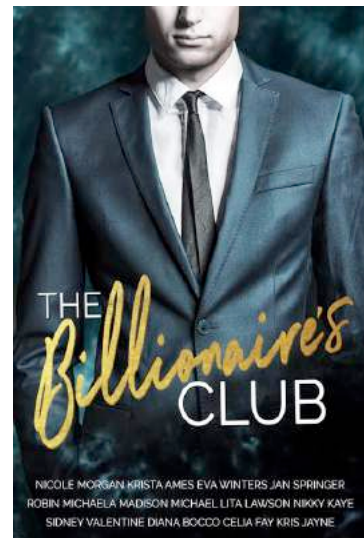
### Ice

#### One of Eleven Steamy Stories from The Billionaire's Club Box Set

High stakes. Risk takers. Power-wielding billionaires.

This box set will take you on a ride of romance, seduction and games of wealth and fortune. Find out what happens when these powerful men meet their match.

**Lita Lawson** fell in love with romance and alpha males when her mother took her to see *Gone With the Wind*. An avid reader since she was young, her passion for love stories evolved when she decided to try her hand at writing one. She hopes you enjoy her stories, from the first kiss to the happily ever after. Lita is a member of Romance Writers of America® and lives in Ohio with her husband and three cats.



A **COFW member** off and on for over 15 years, Lita says, "I love COFW as we have so many great speakers at our monthly meetings, annual conference or workshop. COFW has an amazing group of authors willing to share their experience in writing romance. COFW rocks!"

[www.litalawson.com](http://www.litalawson.com)

<https://www.facebook.com/authorlitalawson>



# ***What Makes a Real Heroine?***

By Phyllis Laatsch, Sacramento Valley Rose

*This article was first used in the Sacramento Valley Rose RWA April - June 2018 Newsletter. Rights are granted by the author for circulation to other RWA chapters.*

This essay started out talking about what the #MeToo movement means for romance heroes.

BUT ...

I'm taking aim at another aspect of our social turmoil in which victims are frequently ignored.

The RWA National Board statement that as an organization we've got to do better in terms of race has some people clutching their metaphorical pearls and others, especially women of color, saying, "I've been saying this and SAYING this and I'm TIRED. And I'm ANGRY."

Women of color are dropping out of RWA in droves. Or they never joined.

(According to the 2017 Diversity Survey, 86% of the RWA membership identifies as white, 7% as black, the remainder in other groups or 'prefer not to state.')

Or they feel unwelcome in meetings. Or they're in, but have a buddy system for meetings and conferences. Or they're in, but don't bother entering the Rita or Golden Heart because they know they won't final.

“We’ve only recently started collecting demographic information on our members, and that is on a voluntary basis. But from what we could determine, the statistics for black author RITA finalists from 2000 to 2017 show:

- The number of finalist books by black authors is less than half of 1% of the total number of finalist books, and
- No black romance author has ever won a RITA.”

(<https://www.rwa.org/p/bl/ar/blogaid=2170>)

Alyssa Cole’s Civil War-set *An Extraordinary Union* (2017) is one of the best historical romance novels of last year. It made all sorts of best-of-romance and best-of-year lists not just my own. And yet it’s not a finalist.

Can we blame the judging system? Probably.

After all, it takes only two really bad scores (because they drop the lowest one) to bring a book down.

Can we blame the member/judges? Probably.

Maybe they’re racist, maybe they aren’t. Maybe they don’t know they are. Maybe they ran out of time and gave top scores to the authors they already knew and low scores to the ones they weren’t familiar with.

It takes only two people who aren’t familiar with anything but white British nobles and white cowboys to open the pages and think that a poor Scottish farmer and a scarred ex-slave operating as spies are too unfamiliar for their tastes. So instead of opening their minds and developing their tastes, they grimace and move on.

On the other hand, a book with a Nazi hero and a blonde, blue-eyed Jewish heroine finished a couple of years ago. And I read one finalist a few years ago that had exactly one person of color in it and he was the evil, insane lover of the evil, insane gay brother. It was both racist and homophobic.

Sometimes it's like a bad game of Bingo.

But the Rita award is only a symptom of a wider problem in romance publishing. The southern Californian all-romance bookstore, The Ripped Bodice, has done a survey of romance publishers for the last two years and has come up with the not-so-surprising fact that the percentage of titles by people of color published by leading romance publishers is dismal.

<http://www.therippedbodice.com/state-racial-diversity-romance-publishing-report>

The numbers were worse for 2017 than for 2016. One of the few companies that had a good score, Crimson Romance, which is a digital imprint of Simon and Schuster, announced almost immediately after this year's report that they are closing.

It's not because books by and about People of Color aren't selling. The Ripped Bodice reports that 60% of its top sellers last year were by people of color, and yet 6.2% of romance novels that are not self-published were by people of color.

And let me reiterate that less than half of a percent of Rita finalists are African American. And reiterate that 14% of RWA membership is people who don't identify as white. These authors aren't bad writers. They're not being published and not being honored in our current system.

And this is only a symptom of the greater race issues in this country – and around the world.



## **What can we do?**

Obviously, we can't solve worldwide racism on our own. But we can make our corner of the world better.

- Welcome people to our local meetings. ALL people. Encourage them to speak. Encourage them to come back. Encourage them to volunteer.
- When a person of color says they're being mistreated, LISTEN. If we hear racist comments, confront them. Do something.
- Buy romance novels by people of color. Read them. Find the ones we like best and talk them up to our friends and followers, just as we would any other book we like.
- Encourage publishers to publish more works by people of color. Encourage agents to sign them on and rep them to publishers.
- Check our words. Check our prejudices and ingrained attitudes.
- Check our privilege.

## **That's what makes a real heroine.**

**Phyllis Laatsch**, writing as **Philippa Lodge**, has five French historical books out, edits the chapter newsletter, and is on a hiatus from writing right now, working lots of overtime. You can find her on Twitter as Philippa Lodge [@plaatsch](https://twitter.com/plaatsch).