



November 2019

Issue 11

Welcome to Central Ohio Fiction Writers Newsletter

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Newsletter Editor: Rachel Dye

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.

2019 Leadership

President, Jeanne Estridge

Secretary, Sandra J. Kachurek

Treasurer, Stacy McKittrick

Program Chair, Aleta Dodson

Newsletter Editor, Rachel Dye

Membership Chair, Linda Rice

Social Media Chair, Gina Smith

Incentives, Julia Blaine

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

Renewal before January 31: \$30. After January 31: \$35.

- Membership with Romance Writers of America required.

Follow COFW

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

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

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/cofwriters/>

Closed Facebook Group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/177462723049177/>

Central Ohio Fiction Writers

P.O. Box 24254 Dayton, OH 45424

Next Meeting: Holiday Party! December 7th

Robin's house: 5437 River Forest Road in Dublin, Oh

Time: 12:00

Please bring a side dish to share!

COFW Fiction Plotters Meet Monthly - East

Need a boost with a story idea that has yet to see words on a page? Can't get your protagonist out of a hole you've written her into? Not sure whether the antagonist is antag-ging enough? Consider stopping by the COFW Fiction Plotters group. We meet the first Wednesday of the month at 10 a.m. at the Panera Bread in Taylor Square in Reynoldsburg, Ohio, 43068.

To verify members are meeting and to stay in touch in between, we use this email:

cofwplot@yahoogroups.com

If you have questions, contact:

Andrea McConnell: fyrefly93@gmail.com

Saralee Etter: saralee_etter@yahoo.com

COFW Fiction Plotters Meet Monthly - West

All the same fun as above but located in Huber Heights. We meet the second Monday of the month at 6:30 pm at the Panera Bread off I-70 exit 36.

If you have questions contact:

Jeanne Estridge: jeanneestridge@gmail.com

Rachel Dye: juliette.r.hyland@gmail.com

2020 Leadership

Board

President: Janice Beckett.

Secretary: Sandy Kachurek

Treasurer: Stacy McKitrick

Non-Board Positions

Newsletter Editor: Rachel Dye

Programs Chair: Aleta Dodson

Education Chair: Erin Novotny

Social Media Chair: Gina Smith

Incentives Coordinator: Julia Blaine

Ignite the Flame Contest Chair: Shari Heinrich

Monthly Meetings Facility Coordinator: Jane Connor

Equipment Inventory Coordinator: Robin Gianna

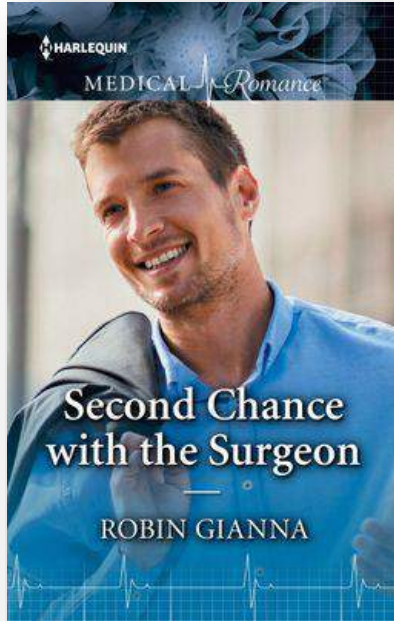
Damon Suede: Branding and Tropes

Images by Shari Heinrich





New Releases:



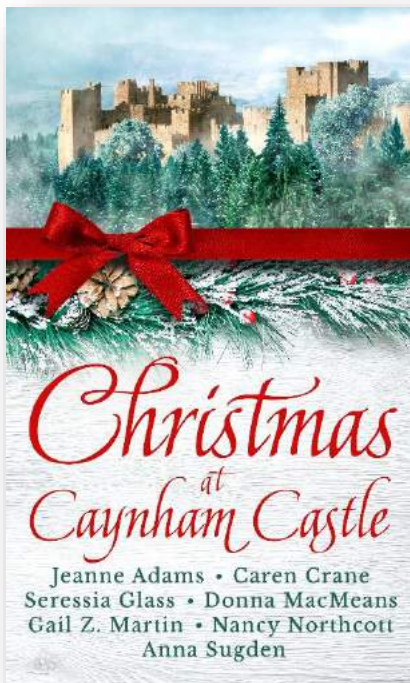
Second Chance with the Surgeon by Robin Gianna

Can healing his ex-wife...

...also mend their marriage?

When occupational therapist Jillian Keyser breaks her wrist, the last thing she wants is treatment from her ex-husband, Conor McCarthy. But as he is a leading orthopedic surgeon, she knows she needs his help! As she is forced to live again with the man who broke her heart, they discover a new understanding. With their connection as strong as ever, will the Christmas lights over New York shine on their relationship for a second time?

Available now!



Christmas at Caynham Castle by Donna MacMeans

Seven new Christmas Novellas by Seven Authors!! Christmas at Caynham Castle anthology features seven novellas in various genres, all with three things in common. All the stories feature a romance, all are placed in the fictional Caynham Castle, and all occur at Christmas. There's an historical, contemporaries, paranormal, and a M/M romance. My story, Her Heart in His Pocket, involves a surprise reunion in 1891 of a pickpocket turned lady's maid and a mysterious unexpected footman that occurs just in time for the Christmas Frost Ball at Caynham Castle. The past of each could jeopardize the future of the other, as well as the future of Caynham Castle itself.

Available now!

COFW has a spreadsheet for new releases. With the demise of the Yahoo Group, please put your information on the spreadsheet:

<http://bit.ly/COFWNewrelease>

COFW now has goal sheets!!!

Thanks to Erin Novotny & Arianna James for setting this up.



Want to track a daily word count and compete with your fellow COFW members for the highest point total? Add your name and goals to our Magic Spreadsheet here:

<https://bit.ly/2Wprwt0>

October Winner: Susan Gee Heino!

The winner gets Eddie!

Looking for a way to hit those goals: Did you know that studies have shown you're up to 66% more likely to achieve a goal if you write it down and up to 95%(!!) more likely to achieve a goal if you tell someone else what it is and have a deadline by which you need to meet it. List your goals here and Arianna will check in to see if you've hit them: <http://bit.ly/2HJoDNq>

Updating Your RWA Profile Information:

The new RWA website (rwa.org) is two different software packages. One is for communicating information about what's going on at RWA. (aka the RWA website). The other is used for chapter portals (We have one of these: cofw.rwa.org) and microsites (We don't yet have one of these). Each of these sites has a spot for profile information for members.

You can update your profile at: www.rwa.org and the forum profiles at: <https://community.rwa.org/update-profile>.

You can also access the profile update page by logging in to rwa.org and selecting "Update Profile" at the top of the page.

1. First update your RWA membership profile.
 - a. Click on the pencil beside the little silhouette.
 - b. In the "change picture" dialogue box, click Select.
 - i. From your computer, choose a picture with a file extension of one of the following:
 - .GIF
 - .JPG
 - .PNG
 - .BMP
 - ii. Click Open
 - iii. Click Save & Close
2. Click on the "About Me" tab and then click on the little pencils to update each section. Save each section after completing.
3. Click on the Preferences tab to update your communication preferences. Be sure to save your changes.
4. Review the other tabs to ensure the information is correct. If it's something you don't have access to change, click on Contact RWA at the bottom of the page to send Donna Mathoslah an email.
5. Update your RWA Community Profile (You should still have the original tab with the links to both profiles open)
 - a. Click on the little silhouette and upload your picture.
 - i. On this page, you have the option of pulling in a picture from your computer or Facebook or Instagram or Dropbox or a host of other places. Load your picture and save it.
6. Update your My Profile information:
 - a. Click on the little pencil next to Bio and share a little about yourself.
 - b. If you've been a finalist or winner in any contests, enter that under Honors and Awards.
 - c. If you belong to other professional organizations, enter the information under Professional Associations.

- d. Add or update your social media links.
- 7. Some information was loaded from the old website. Verify everything is correct and up-to-date.
- 8. Click on Communities and then choose My Communities. You should see an entry for Chapter: Central Ohio Fiction Writers (along with any other communities you belong to, such as PAN).
 - a. Click on Central Ohio Fiction Writers.
 - b. Click on Settings and set up your preferences for the discussion forum.

As of January 1, 2019, Treasurer's Reports, Meeting Minutes and presentation documentation will be posted in our COFW community on the RWA site.

Reminder: On June 1, the Board stopped posting to the Yahoo loop and we will stop monitoring the Yahoo loop. Please have yourself set up on RWA COFW discussion loop prior to that date.

Writing Craft Resource Review

***Save the Cat! Writes a Novel* by Jessica Brody, Reviewed by Miranda Darrow**

The following article first appeared in the September 2019 issue of *Midwest Muse*, the monthly newsletter of Chapter 24, Region 2-Midwest Fiction Writers (Minnesota). Permission granted to reprint or forward to sister RWA chapters with proper credit to author and chapter.

Here's a new feature where we share a review of a writing craft resource (book, class, website, podcast) to share with the Chapter. First up, a recent book titled *Save the Cat! Writes a Novel* by Jessica Brody. This book carries over Blake Snyder's *Save the Cat!* concept for screenwriting and translates it to novels. I was already familiar with the basic beats of *Save the Cat!* but if you aren't, this is a handy resource. The value add with this book was the exploration of the ten basic story types and the author's explanation of an additional three essential beats for each of the ten types.

One of the most interesting aspects for me was that almost any of these ten story types could be books of multiple genres, including romance. Here are the brief explanations of the types and be sure to check out some of the examples of the other types of stories stated in this craft book.

1. **WhyDunit** – A mystery must be solved by a hero (not necessarily a detective, but often) during which something shocking is revealed about the dark side of human nature. Ex. *Rebecca* by Daphne du Maurier
2. **Rites of Passage** – A hero must endure the pain and torment of life's common challenges (death, separation, loss, divorce, addiction, coming of age, etc.). Ex. *Emma* by Jane Austen, *About a Boy* by Nick Hornby, *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* by Stephen Chbosky, *The Truth About Forever* by Sarah Dessen, *Something Borrowed* by Emily Giffin
3. **Institutionalized** – A hero enters or is already entrenched inside a certain group, institution, establishment or family and must make a choice to join, escape, or destroy it. Ex. *Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott, *The Outsiders* by S. E. Hinton, *The Joy Luck Club* by Amy Tan, *The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants* by Ann Brashares.
4. **Superhero** – An extraordinary hero finds themselves in an ordinary world and must come to terms with being special or destined for greatness. Ex. *City of Bones* by Cassandra Clare, *Mockingjay* by Suzanne Collins, *Legend* by Marie Lu, *Shadow and Bone* by Leigh Bardugo, *Cinder* by Marissa Meyer
5. **Dude with a Problem** – An innocent, ordinary hero suddenly finds themselves in the midst of extraordinary circumstances and must rise to the challenge. Ex. *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins, *The 5th Wave* by Rick Yancey, *Illuminae* by Amie Kaufman and Jay Kristoff
6. **Fool Triumphant** – An underestimated, underdog hero is pitted against some kind of "establishment" and proves a hidden worth to society. Ex. *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte, *Bridget Jones's Diary* by Helen Fielding, *The Princess Diaries* by Meg Cabot, *Dumplin'* by Julie Murphy
7. **Buddy Love** – A hero is transformed by meeting someone else, including (but not only) love stories, friendship stories, and pet stories. Ex. *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen, *It Had to Be You* by Susan Elizabeth Phillips, *Twilight* by Stephenie Meyer, *Irresistible Forces* by Brenda Jackson, *Everything, Everything* by Nicola Yoon, *When Dimple Met Rishi* by Sandhya Menon
8. **Out of the Bottle** – An ordinary hero is temporarily "touched by magic," often involving a wish fulfilled or a curse bestowed, and the hero learns an important lesson about appreciating and making the most of "reality." Ex. *Landline* by Rainbow Rowell, *Airhead* by Meg Cabot
9. **Golden Fleece** – A hero (or group) goes on a "road trip" of some type (could be metaphorical) in search of one thing and winds up discovering something else-themselves. Ex. *The Selection* by Kiera Cass, *Amy and Roger's Epic Detour* by Morgan Matson, *Six of Crows* by Leigh Bardugo

10. **Monster in the House** – A hero (or group) must overcome some kind of monster (supernatural or not) in some kind of enclosed setting (or limited circumstance), and someone is usually responsible for bringing the monster into being. Ex. *Sweet* by Emmy Laybourne

The ten types are interesting, and for each one, the author lists three unique beats this type should feature. I won't spoil the whole book, so check it out if you want to find out these unique beats for each type. She gives beat sheets for one of each type, and the examples she walks through in each chapter drive it home. The whole concept makes me want to write many of the ten, but probably not the Monster in the House. I surprised myself with what category some of my stories actually fit the best, and I expect I'll be classifying everything I read for the near future.

Romance author and developmental editor Miranda Darrow reviews writing craft resources with an eye for romance genre issues, empowering romance writers with information to decide whether to invest their time in that resource. She leads a romance-genre critique group in Minneapolis and posts her writing craft reviews on her website, <http://mirandadarrow.com/> under the Book MD Editing tab.

