

CONNECTIONS

the newsletter of the Connecticut Romance Writers Association
Romance Writers of America, Region One, Chapter One

President's Letter

At my weekly critique meeting, my partners and I were going over a pivotal chapter in one group member's novel. We all agreed that, as written, the chapter was pretty good, but something was missing. We tossed it around for a while, trying to put our collective fingers on the thing that, when added to the scene, would make it really sing. Ultimately, we figured out that the chapter, which included an important turning point in the story, needed to highlight the moment when the protagonist **Accepted the Call to Adventure**.

Some of you may be familiar with "**The Hero's Journey**," an approach to story structure described by Christopher Vogler in his massively popular book *The Writer's Journey*, and adapted by many other teachers of writing. If you look it up, you may notice a similarity with the **Six Stage Plot Structure** that Michael Hauge passed out copies of in the all-day workshop he presented for CTRWA last November. (Coincidentally, *The Hero's Journey* is the subject of a two-hour workshop being presented at Connecticut Fiction Fest on April 24th.)

I've read a lot of resources that cite *The Hero's Journey*, and I've attended a number of workshops based on all or part of it. Every time I do, I'm struck by the ways that it applies to more than novels or screenplays. I think it describes, in some ways, the life of a writer.

For each writer, *The Call for Adventure* comes in its own way. Maybe it starts with a stirring in the back of the mind, that builds and builds until the day he or she finally opens up a notebook or a computer, turns to a fresh page and writes the words "Chapter One." Or, perhaps it happens all at once: A certainty that you have a story to tell, accompanied by an irresistible compulsion to tell it. Or, your best friend, your mother, your spouse or your teacher says, perhaps for the hundredth time, "You should be a writer" and, this time, you believe them.

If you're a member of CTRWA, you've already heard *The Call to Adventure*. Faintly or loudly, suddenly or gradually, the desire to write has come upon you. That's why you're here.

But, it isn't *hearing* *The Call* that turns the protagonist into a hero. It's *accepting* it.

Once *The Call* is accepted, everything changes for the hero. There is no turning back. Life will never be as it was beforehand. That's why, in most stories, the hero at first *refuses* the call. At the very least, he or she hesitates, afraid to abandon the familiar in favor of the uncertain. Heroes may think they aren't up to the challenge, or be unwilling to face the specter of failure.

But, if they gave into these fears and uncertainties, they wouldn't get to be heroes.

Luckily, most heroes don't have to take the journey alone. There are other characters in the story to help them gain the tools they need to answer *The Call*. These characters are called Mentors, and there may be one or many of them. For members of CTRWA, your mentors are all around you. I'm not just talking about

continued on page 8



TABLE OF CONTENTS

President's Letter	1
Calendar	2
Member News	2
Member Profile	3
Off to Conference.....	4
Starting Over	5
Grammar Me: Semicolons	5
Delaying Reader Gratification	6
Teresa's Tips	6
Piracy	7
Reviewing on Amazon	7
Pointless but Fun.....	8
Member Releases	8

NEXT MEETING:

April 10

**Brand You with
Marketing Expert
Jennifer Fusco**

See page 2 for details.

CTRWA MEETING SCHEDULE

Critique Group: 9:30
General Meeting: 10:30
Speaker: 11:00

Ask a Published Author (APA)
Craft Corner
LUNCH
(pay your own way)

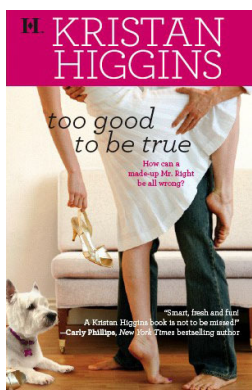
CALENDAR

April 10th...Brand You...Jennifer Fusco, Manager of Marketing Communications and Brand for GE, will present Creating Your Personal Brand. As ten year veteran in marketing, she has compiled her knowledge of the importance of a Brand into an easy to understand, idea generating presentation to help you lay the foundation to build your own personal brand as a writer.

APA...Lindsay Downs will answer any writing questions you might have...e-mail him at lindsay@lindsaydowns.com.

April 24th...Connecticut Fiction Fest! We'll need your help Friday afternoon and on Saturday too...many hands make light work and all that, plus it's wicked fun.

May 8th...Finding the Right Agent with Tracey Lyon. Stay tuned for more details!



Kristan and **Doc Jess** are very happy indeed to be up for the Romance Writers of America RITA[®] Award — Kristan in Single Title Contemporary, Jess in Series Suspense. This is Kristan's second nom and Jessica's fourth! Kristan has already accused Jess of showing off, and Jess has retaliated with a promise of a smackdown.
Stay tuned!



CHAPTER NEWS

Connecticut Fiction Fest, April 24th! Things are coming together beautifully for the Connecticut Fiction Fest. We'll be hitting you up...er...asking you to help out in various and sundry ways and really appreciate everyone pitching in.

Website...Don't forget to use our website for information! Under the members-only section (password is *wallingford*), there's information on a whole bunch of great information.

Don't forget to register for the **RWA National Conference**, this year in beautiful Nashville, TN. Always fun, informative and invigorating!

MEMBER NEWS

So nice to see some of our brand-new members at the all-day workshop in March! Welcome to **Katie McNulty**, **Kathy Albert** and **Gail Ingis**! We're very happy to have you. Congratulations to **Janet Halsted** for her brand-new e-mail addy! Welcome back to the cyberworld, Janet! **Kristan Higgins** will be signing at Perk on Main in Durham on April 1st and at Barnes & Noble in North Haven on April 17th...do stop by! In addition, Kristan has just said yes to a 3-book deal with her pals at HQN. **Paula Robinson** has found that forcing herself to write just isn't working; she prefers the "let it flow and tie it all together later on" method. Whatever works, Paula!... **Ellie Sullo** is recovering from multiple signings while on vacation in Tucson, especially the busier ones at Barnes and Noble, and with the folks in her own hotel. People here are super unstressed and relaxed and *reading*, and if she weren't still tweezing out cacti needles, she might be tempted to stay here! Meanwhile, Book #2 in Ellie's Menopause Murder Series (Harem) is in the edited folder, and she must start working on that as soon as she gets home in three days. Also, baby great granddaughter Maddie has just cut her first two teeth. Ellie can't wait to see her. Head colds have plagued a few members...**Kathye Thornton** is not letting a nasty cold stop her from writing. Atta girl, Kathye! **Karen Pinco** is grateful that her cold finally vacated her head and appreciates the ability to think once more...**Kate Smith** will have the pleasure of listening to *Be Mine Tonight* on the German audio edition (Mein Gott!). She also turned in the synopsis for her next steampunk YA. Congratulations to El Presidente **Toni Andrews** for signing a seven-book series. Book 1 of the Carnal Magic series, *Carnal Healing*, will be released this summer under Toni's bad girl nom de plume, Virginia Reede. Toni also signed a contract to contribute a story to The Mammoth Book of Paranormal Romance 2 and says, "Now, if I only had the BAREST CLUE what it's going to be about. Suggestions are welcome. I'm serious." Toni will be at the Unicorn Writer's Conference in Stratford on April 10th and sent in the final edits for *Carnal Magic*...From Susan Crowley: *The Stormy Love Life of Laura Cordelais* will definitely be released in print in April, still no exact date yet. Working on back cover as we speak. Finished a 21,000 word novella manuscript:

Continued on page 7

Member of the Month...the fabulous Shaunee Cole

VP/Programming for our chapter and graphic designer of our conference program, logo, stationery (the list goes on and on, the amazing and lovely Shaunee Cole gave us a few precious minutes to talk about life.

Tell us about your day job/family/present situation.

Day job? You mean jobs, don't you? Which pretty much sums up my family and background. I'm Jamaican so it's a biological imperative that I have at least two jobs. I actually have three and have recently been offered a fourth. Two are graphic design gigs, one at Gateway Community College and the other at Yale. One is an ushering thing at the Shubert Theater and the latest offer is to teach design and pre-press at Gateway. Oh, and I write. So that's five, five jobs ah, ah, ah. AND I'm veep of CTRWA. Six! Six jobs, ah, ah, ah! I also freelance. Seven!! Seven jobs, ah, ah,ah!! I'm sort of a work slut.

What are you working on right now? How's it going?

Well, officially a sequel, but recently I took it into my head to have another look at the first book of that series, which I naively assumed was finished. I mean I'd written The End so many months ago, put it in a drawer like you're supposed to and pulled it out again a month later red pen at the ready. I was merciless—Faulkner calls it slaying the darlings, cutting all the material that's perfectly fabulous, but is just not working. Apparently I wasn't as bloodthirsty as I thought or maybe my darlings were vampire darlings and rose from their apparent death to—yeah I'm kinda tired of this metaphor too. At any rate, I wasn't as finished as I thought, so now I'm in the throes of *more* revisions, which are going...well? Unlike *some* people, revisions are just not my bag. In my perfect world, once done, they'd be done perfectly and forever. Like vacuuming.

Why and when did you start writing?

I started writing as a freshman in college because a Lit professor told me to. It really is as simple as that. I wrote a short story for some class assignment, he told me I should think about doing this for a living and ta da! Here I is!

Why did you join CTRWA? What are you looking for in the chapter?

I was without my peeps and, after an exhaustive search, found CTRWA and was all, what's up bitches! What I'm looking for in the chapter is what I get at every meeting: fellowship, inspiration, motivation, encouragement and education.

Who are some of your fave authors?

Robin McKinley because she writes any old way she wants to and it works out just beautifully. Jacqueline Carey because she has six pages of dramatis personae at the beginning of her Kushiel series—at least 50 characters that have names full of diacritical marks, and their various relationships to each other—and is such a skillful writer that you never once have to refer to it.

Favorite CT restaurant, food, drink?

Any restaurant in New Haven, anything edible (except chocolate) and any thoughtfully made cocktail.

Any celeb you'd cast for your current hero/heroine?

Fel - Goran Visnjic; Dragon - Sanaa Lathan; Saras - Archie Panjabi; Charlemagne - Bruce Willis's swagger with Mike Rowe's humor/smarts/build. Not sure what that looks like yet.



Quote from Undertow by Shaunee Cole

On the one hand, he wanted his woman again. She was surely sore and apparently unrecovered from their last mingling. He'd been rough with her, but he shrugged off the memory of his intensity easily. In the face of the most genuine desire he'd felt since Shiva knew how long, her minor aches were worth it. *And easily soothed*, he thought, imagining joining her in a warm, languid bath with nothing but time to keep them company.

On the other hand, a considerate man would wait. He'd feed her—an omelet perhaps—and reassure her with a pretty speech about slippers and forever.

He was not that man.

Hi-ho, Hi-ho, It's Off to Conference We Go!

by Karen Hall

IT'S THAT TIME of year. The ice is melting, tulips(my favorite flower)are threatening to bloom and the temperature actually stays above 40 degrees! And so, that means it must be time to GO TO CONFERENCES! Writing conferences! I just love them! The thrill! The chill! That magical experience where... OK, I'm starting to sound like a novel(who me?) But to some, conferences sound as daunting as an Olympic event or singing at the Met.(My secret fantasy) So even if you are faint-hearted, take a deep breath and let's take a look on how to survive a conference. The following hopefully provides some helpful tips for surviving your first or your fortieth conference.

Writing conferences are professional events, not an excuse for a wholesale bacchanalian event(OK, maybe on the last night)They are designed to offer education via workshops, networking opportunities and the dreaded agent/editor appointments. As such, be what you are-a professional. If you are pursuing a career in writing, published or not(yet)you are a professional.

Professional behavior includes:

Having well-printed business cards to hand out. Believe me, you'll be asked for one. Be sure they're clear and clean. No floppy ears or marks.

Not stalking your favorite author or approaching her/him while they are having dinner in the restaurant with their friends. You'll have a chance at the book-signing to tell them how much you appreciate their work. The same goes for your editor. **Don't** corner them, trying to get in a good word before your appointment. And don't try to slip them your completed manuscript under a bathroom stall door. Yes, this really did happen at a conference. And you can bet your chapter probably doesn't have a bail fund set aside for their members.

Dressing professionally. This does not mean a three piece suit but neither does it mean wearing your oldest sweatshirt and ratty jeans(yes I know you write in those, but leave them at home or only wear them in your room.) Strike a balance between the two. Always have a jacket ready because hotels' temperatures vary widely and the more bodies, the more unpredictable the temperature will be. Wear comfortable shoes.

Be very, very polite to the hotel staff. You'd be surprised how easily overlooked these hardworking people are. Always, always, always, tip the men who carry in your luggage or park your car. Check with the front desk about how to leave a tip for the women who clean your room.

Not hogging questions during workshops or using them as a chance for self-promotion, (even if you're leading the workshop. People will remember that and not in a good way)

Don't get drunk or be too rowdy in the bar. As I said, people will remember.

Be prepared at your agent/editor interview. Have your

pitch ready and keep it simple. Smile. Shake hands (good reason for nice manicure). Smile. Use notes if you need to, but maintain eye contact. Smile. Don't offer information that isn't asked. Smile. Thank her/him for their interest even if they don't make a request. And finally, smile.

Volunteer if you can. It's a great way to meet a large number of people and make yourself.

Remember your traveling companions are your friends.

They are among your first and best supporters. Respect each other and don't take your friendships for granted.

Give yourself time to rest between workshops if you find yourself tiring. The National Conference is so jam-packed with events that it seems like an endurance event, especially in a large hotel. Take naps if you need, try to eat healthy(there was lots and lots of water at last year's conference, so drink up!)and wear comfortable shoes. Get some rest on your last night. Resist the temptation to stay up until dawn and celebrate.

Above all, have fun!

Karen Hall writes Victorian Romances for the Wild Rose Press English Tea Rose line. Her current release, Pursuing Love, is available now. This article was first printed in the March 2010 Smoke Signals newsletter for the Smoky Mountain Romance Writers.

Things to Pack for an Overnight Conference

Band-Aids for those impractical, slutty, wonderful shoes you insist on wearing.

Slippers, to soothe those abused feet.

Teabags to perk up tired eyes; dampen and put on your eyelids for a quick fix.

Hair spray. Your hair will do strange things away from home.

Visine. Hotel air is so dry!

Snacks. Even if you have plenty of moolah for food, you'll be too busy yakking away to eat when you're actually at dinner.

Water for your hotel room. You may or may not have a fridge, but you'll be glad for a little hydration.

A bag for all those books! You'll come back with a lot of freebies!

THE PERILS OF BEING PUBLISHED—Starting Over

by Gerry Bartlett

IT'S A COMMON misconception and, I'll admit it, a dream among unpublished authors that once you've sold your first manuscript to a major publishing house you have it made. Or maybe it's once you've snagged an agent you're finally on your way. Sorry, children, but you never have a secure future in this business. Bet you a dollar even Nora never feels like she can relax and coast. We all live from contract to, hopefully, another contract. In this economy, publishers are being very stingy with them.

So that means an author must constantly search for the "next big thing" or at least an idea that's new and fresh. Argh. Don't you hate that word? Ever get a contest entry back that attacked your baby on the grounds that the writing was fine but it just wasn't anything they hadn't seen before? Hello, how many hundreds of thousands of books have been written? There are no new ideas. Well, there'd better be, 'cause you've got to come up with one.

That's where I am in this new year. I'm winding up my long running series and looking to start a "fresh" one. I love my vampires but worry that they've run their course. So what if the Twilight thing is still hot? I've got to make my stuff stand out and, not only that, rise above the established New York Times bestselling authors who have already developed a loyal fan base. Publishers will be very leery of taking on a project of mine, even though my old series sold well, unless I knock it out of the park. Is there enough pressure here? Yep, just enough to freeze me at the keyboard. So I write articles like this, clear my clutter and think.

The problem with thinking is that everything that I want to write suddenly seems like a cliché. I had one great idea for my old series—a vampire who was bloating when she was turned. I rode that concept hard, all the way to the bank. Book number six is due on the shelves at the end of 2010. But how can I top that? And do I really want another series with one heroine? Trust me, I've had Glory and Blade doing it more times than I can count. I have to order books in plain brown wrappers to come up with new ways for them to get it on. I'm thinking it would be easier to do a family this time, with a different heroine/hero for each book. But then what? The blank page mocks me.

Is this helping you? Nope. So here are my New Year's hints for dealing with a writer's life. I told you I was procrastinating, didn't I? Because starting over is the pits. I just hope they don't make me take a pseudonym. Now, are you ready to face the challenge of kick-starting your own career? Try these helpful ideas or not:

1. Slap your slug—We sit on our ever expanding backsides way too many hours. So I decided to incorporate exercise into my daily routine in easy steps. First, don't

drive thru, walk in. You know they're going to get your order wrong anyway. I did this at the bank yesterday and got a chance to plug my book to the teller.

2. Drink lots of water—This also adds exercise as you race back and forth to the you know where. Experts say hydrating is good for you too.

3. Master the five minute face—I slap on makeup every day no matter what. Five minutes gets me moisturizer, base, blush, concealer for the bags under my eyes, a little eye shadow and mascara. We're not auditioning for Miss America here, just trying not to frighten small children.

4. Get dressed—I know one of the joys of writing full time is supposed to be working in your jammies, but that leads to a mindset that calls for an afternoon nap. Pick an easy outfit that you can jump into, a uniform that's comfortable. Maybe it's a sweatsuit you can go braless in or jeans and a t-shirt. But get dressed, it will make you feel like you are getting down to business.

5. Limit early email time to fifteen minutes—I can hear the squealing from here. Scan the list of incoming, answer only the most pressing and save the rest for when your brain is too tired to create. I mean it. I can look up and see that I've burned two hours of prime writing time before I'm done scanning the digests I get. Come on, toughen up. Do you really need to comment on every post? I know who you are. I see your name three times on those digests(which you must be on, by the way) at least twice a day. Why aren't you writing?

Okay, that's all I've got. I hope you finally get what you want in the New Year, whether it's an agent, a new contract, or just the brilliant idea you've been scrambling for. I'm starting this year like I always do, counting my blessings. Count yours, then get busy.

Gerry Bartlett is the author of the Real Vampires series. Book five, REAL VAMPIRES HATE THEIR THIGHS is a February 2010 release. Visit her website at gerrybartlett.com. This article first appeared in the January 2010 issue of In Print!, the monthly newsletter of Houston Bay Area RWA.



Make 'em Wait — Delaying Reader Gratification

by Colleen Thompson

POPULAR NINETEENTH CENTURY novelist and playwright Charles Reade once famously shared this advice on writing: "Make 'em laugh; make 'em cry; make 'em wait."

Today, I'm taking a few minutes to focus on the last facet, that of "wait time," in the art of storytelling.

To keep the reader flipping pages, the writer strives to quickly raise compelling questions by giving incomplete information in the form of intriguing dialogue or narrative. There's no shortage of advice on how to set hooks that appeal to reader curiosity.

To look at one example, here's a quick snippet from the opening of one of my recent romantic thrillers, *Beneath Bone Lake* (Lovespell, May 2009):

The boatman's paddle dug deep beneath the moss-green surface, biting and twisting like a switchblade's killing thrust. Pulse thrummed and muscles burned as he dragged the canoe forward, threading through a swamp-dank maze of pale trees, the ghost sentries of a forest flooded years before. Above, the skeletal branches reached skyward into silver, their bony fingers veiled in Spanish moss and predawn mist.

A harsh cry heralded a white egret's low flap over water, and a higher-pitched, more melodic twitter warned the sun was close to rising. With a glance down at his watch, he swore, then flipped away the cigarette he had been smoking. He had to get moving, get the hell out of here because cold or not, the damned bass fisherman would be out at first light. He couldn't take the chance that the silent incursion of an electric trolling motor would bring one close enough to notice that he carried no tackle — close enough to hear the splash as his loathsome cargo slipped over the canoe's side.

By this point, the reader is (I hope) wondering who is this guy, why doesn't he want to be spotted, and (most importantly) what -- or who -- is the "loathsome cargo" he's on the water dumping?

After growing curious about these important questions, the reader might be mildly engaged if they were quickly answered. But tension is heightened with a "jump cut" (quick switch to a totally different scene) where Ruby Monroe, flying into Dallas after a year-long civilian work stint in Iraq, is extremely excited about the prospect of reuniting with her little girl and Ruby's sister, who's been caring for her. A new set of questions is raised, including the airport theft of an important item along with Ruby's family's failure to appear.

Now, with any luck, the reader should be caught up in Ruby's anticipation, worried that the body from Scene One isn't one of the heroine's family members, and compelled to keep flipping pages (with mounting dread) to find out what's really going on.

Rather than offering a quick pay-off, however, the story then forces readers to follow a chain of discoveries, revelations,

dubious allies, and tantalizing possibilities to get to the questions' answers, the most important of which are delayed, delayed, delayed until the final pages.

But it's a balancing act, and no easy task, to keep the reader from becoming confused and/or giving up in frustration. To prevent these pitfalls, it's important that the author also raise lesser questions, which are answered at varying intervals. By satisfying reader curiosity on those counts and doing so in a fresh, novel, or unpredictable way, the author sets out the trail of breadcrumbs that will eventually lead the audience to a satisfying intellectual and emotional payoff.

Achieve this ideal balance, and you've effectively "bookmark-proofed" one page-turner of a read.

Colleen Thompson's sixteenth page-turner, Touch of Evil, is a March 2010 release from Lovespell. Visit www.colleen-thompson.com. This article first appeared in the March 2010 issue of In Print!, Houston Area RWA.

Teresa's Write Right Tips

- 1) Don't give characters unpronounceable names. Unless you're German, umlauts are not your friend.
- 2) Almost any sentence except "I am born" can be improved with revision.
- 3) Don't fear adverbs but actions verbs are always better. Not "He walked slowly" but "He trudged..."
- 4) It's the 1st sentence of your book that sells that book to the editor or reader. It's the last sentence of your book that sells the next book.
- 5) A creative silence may be your subconscious saying, "Hush, child. I'm working on a better plan."
- 6) Characters don't have to be perfect from the first page. Character growth is the hallmark of good fiction.
- 7) Writing is part talent and part craft. The craft part can be improved with practice.
- 8) You don't learn how to play the piano by reading books about playing the piano. You learn by practicing.
- 9) If you can stop writing, you probably should.
- 10) If you're stuck, go for a walk. Moving forward moves the brain forward. (Thanks to the Dog Whisperer for this tip ☺)

Excerpted from <http://teresamedeiros.blogspot.com/>, Teresa Madeiros 2010.

Piracy

by Teri Thackston

PIRACY. TO A romance novelist or reader, that word brings up images of bare-chested hunks standing at the wheel of a mighty sailing ship or swinging a cutlass through a mob of scurvy villains to save his lady love. Passion ensues.

But these days—to novelists, at least—the word can mean something much more serious. Copyright infringement, illegal downloads, flat-out robbery. The typical victims of these crimes are ebook authors—authors whose books have been published in digital format and made available for sale over the internet. When someone buys a copy of an ebook, they are not allowed to upload it to any kind of filesharing site. Doing so is against the law. It takes money out of the pocket of the copyright owner: the author. It takes money away from the publisher, who shelled out money to format, advertise, and market that book. It raises the prices of all ebooks for everyone just as shoplifting raises the prices of everything at the grocery store.

Here's what the U.S. Copyright Office (<http://www.copyright.gov/faq-digital.html>) says about works found on the internet:

"Uploading or downloading works protected by copyright without the authority of the copyright owner is an infringement of the copyright owner's exclusive rights of reproduction and/or distribution. Anyone found to have infringed a copyrighted work may be liable for statutory damages up to \$30,000 for each work infringed and, if willful infringement is proven by the copyright owner, that amount may be increased up to \$150,000 for each work infringed."

Most people know that this applies to music—there have been some high profile cases where folks have received hefty fines for illegal music downloads or sharing. It's the same for books. Stealing is stealing, even if it's something that can't be held in the hand—like books and music and photographs.

So if you come across a site that offers ebooks, make sure it's a valid site with the legal right to offer those ebooks for download. Usually that is limited to the author's or publisher's website, or legitimate booksellers such as Amazon or Barnes & Noble. If you find a suspicious site, let the author know and she or her publisher can research the situation. Remember, piracy hurts everyone who loves reading ebooks. Let's put a stop to it.

Teri Thackston writes romantic suspense as well as paranormal and historical romance for Cerridwen Press. Readers can find her column on Houston romance novels online at <http://www.examiner.com/x-3098-Houston-Romance-Novels-Examiner> This article first appeared in the Houston edition of the Examiner.



Member News, continued

Vampire in the Basement--paranormal romance comedy and sequel to *When Love Survives*. Saturday, April 3rd, Susan will be on the Coffee Time Romance Blog. Trying to think outside the box, **Marie Roy** has used self-publishing and directly uploaded short erotic fiction, now available on Kindle: the first two stories are now available under the title *The Pleasure of Our Company*. Both of Marie's Todd Hollow Series books will be available for the booksigning at the book fair April 24th....**Joy Smith** is slaving over a hot stove...fortunately, the stove is in the British Virgin Islands! Joy recently began a new book, which seems to be good for her soul....**Patti Cavaliere's** overhauling her book and just cut 6000 words (you go, girl!))! And finally, **Bob Bonitz** got a request for two (!) books at the always wonderful New England conference. Way to go, Bob!

How to Review on Amazon

Interested in supporting a fellow author? An Amazon review is a great way to do so, and it's not hard or time-consuming at all. Marketing departments at publishing companies often use Amazon reviews as tools for the sales department and can be quite important for an author's buzz.

Simply go to Amazon.com, type in the author's name and book title (or one of each) and get to the page that shows the cover of the book. Click on the customer reviews...usually it will say something like "5 customer reviews" next to the star rating. The next screen will be called "Customer Reviews." There's a button that says "Create your own review." You have to have bought something on Amazon in the past to do this. Once you've clicked on the "Create your own review" button, you'll get to the screen where you can type in your actual thoughts on the book. You can preview it, then publish it, and voila! Within 24 hours, the review will appear for millions to see.

Keep in mind that once you hit the "Publish" button, it's done...so be sure that you want it out there for all to see. And on behalf of our published authors, thank you!

— Kristan

Pointless But Fun

What's the best movie you've seen lately?

I saw *Ghost Writer* when I was out on the Vineyard...and it was neat, because it was supposed to be set on the Vineyard (and yet was filmed on my beloved Cape Cod!). I thought it was really well done. And Ewan MacGregor isn't half bad, either. ☺ — Kristan Higgins

I loved, loved, loved *Sherlock Holmes!* — Kate Smith

That's easy — *The Hangover.* — Karen Pinco

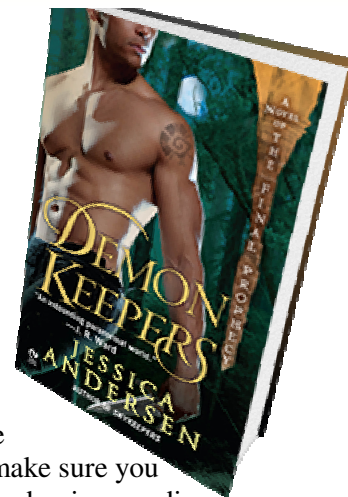
The HBO series *The Pacific.*—Susan Crowley

I'd have to say the romantic comedy/chick flick movie *It's Complicated* with Meryl Streep, Alec Baldwin and Steve Martin. I think mainly because having been in the single's world of dating for a time, yes indeed it is complicated! — Marie Roy

I recently saw *The Blind Side.* Its an awesome flick. I highly recommend it. — Jennifer Fusco

The Hurt Locker — Lindsay Downs

MEMBER RELEASES!



Hello! Now that's a cover we could spend some time examining! Congratulations, **Doc Jess**, on the April 6th release of *Demon Keepers*, the fourth book in the *Night Keepers* series. Hope it's bound for the NYTBSL! Members, make sure you show Jessica the love by buying, reading and reviewing the book and dropping by her guest blog appearances.

"Andersen ramps up the danger (in a story that) mixes action and elements of Mayan myth—from a voyage to the underworld to a fantastic high-stakes ballgame—with soul-searching, lust and romance."
— Publishers Weekly

President's Letter, continued

published authors helping unpublished authors, but rather the support and encouragement of all members of the organization for one another.

Have you accepted your own Call to Adventure? If you want to take the rest of the journey, it's an unavoidable step.

Happy April, everyone! I'll see you at Connecticut Fiction Fest on April 24th.

Sincerely,

Toni Andrews
President, CTRWA

P.S. If you'd like to learn more about The Hero's Journey, you can get a free copy of a questionnaire adapted from Vogler's book online at:

http://www.darkcloudpress.com/blog_files/Death_Percept_Heros_Jrny_Quest.pdf.

CTRWA Board Members

Toni Andrews, President
toni@toniandrews.com

Shaunee Cole, VP/Programming Director
shaunee@comcast.com

Karen Pinco, Secretary/ Membership Director
kpinco@gmail.com

Jennifer Iszkiewicz, Publicity Director
jmp3274@comcast.net

Janet Messina, Treasurer
janmessina@comcast.net

Kristan Higgins, Media Director
k.higgins@snet.net

Bob Bonitz, Member-at-Large
bonitz99@yahoo.com

Connections is published monthly by CTRWA. Nothing may be reproduced without giving credit to CTRWA and the author