



# connections

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



## letter from the media director

**hero: 1) a legendary figure endowed with great strength or ability;  
2) an illustrious warrior**

THIS WEEKEND, I met Sherrilyn Kenyon for the first time. I haven't read her books (not yet, I should say), but I certainly know her name. *Fifteen* times in the past two years, her books have taken the #1 slot on the *New York Times* bestsellers list. *Fifteen times*. At the book signing, I watched as her fans, many dressed as characters in her books, came to pay homage to their favorite writer, bringing her gifts and tributes, many of them crying or trembling at the sight of her. She was absent from a lot of the public events at the conference we both attended, and though she smiled when I introduced myself, she seemed sweetly shy.

Sherrilyn was Saturday's speaker, and she gave her talk in a calm, matter-of-fact, almost sing-song tone. She was born in Appalachia to parents who didn't believe in gentleness or mercy. The family was dirt poor, and her parents didn't believe in nurturing children. "The world won't take pity on you," her mother said, "so why should I?" She was so profoundly dyslexic that she had difficulty speaking, and in school, she was so mocked that she stopped speaking. She only learned to read because her older brother took pity on her. A family member abused her; home was not a safe place. Twice, she had her teeth knocked in.

She escaped through writing. Her teachers ignored her, her parents laughed at her, and only her brother believed in her. He borrowed a friend's typewriter for her; Sherrilyn's right hand is partially paralyzed, so writing by hand was difficult. When she was done, he said, "I just know this one's gonna be a winner, baby." Two days later, he died. This was the only time in her talk Sherrilyn's voice broke.

She wasn't allowed in the creative writing program at college, though she had at this time sold dozens of short stories. Without her beloved older brother, only her husband seemed to think she was talented. Her father died of cancer before success came into her life, and her mother passed away shortly thereafter. Three weeks later, Sherrilyn gave birth to a preemie. She offered God anything—her writing, her health, her home—anything, if he would spare the life of her baby. She laughed as she said God seemed to agree to the bargain—her son lived, but the medical bills rendered them homeless—and while her baby was in the hospital, she and her husband slept in the NICU waiting room.

She kept writing, in a two room apartment, on a computer so old they couldn't sell it. She was laughed at by agents and editors for writing a genre that hadn't produced a successful author in 25 years. Her husband kept the faith...until she was rejected so many times even he wavered. They couldn't afford the postage money for her to keep submitting. After years of no interest, it was time to give up.

One more time, she decided. One more submission. She sneaked the stamp out of her husband's wallet. Three days later, she got the call. She has since published every book she has ever written—including the one her brother deemed a winner.

She has received a one-star rating from Romantic Times—their lowest rating. She has never been nominated for a RITA. She has been plagiarized and betrayed by those she thought of as her closest friends.

She ended her speech by wishing everyone in the room the success she's had, and then said, "God bless you all."

(Please see the disclaimer on page 8 of this newsletter)

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## Connecticut Fiction Fest May 14, 2011

Eloisa James  
Sarah Wendell  
Agents  
Editors  
Fun

## Fiction Fest Schedule

Registration 7:30-8:00

**Keynote Address from  
Eloisa James  
8:30-9:00**

For more information on the schedule, visit [www.ctrwa.org](http://www.ctrwa.org)

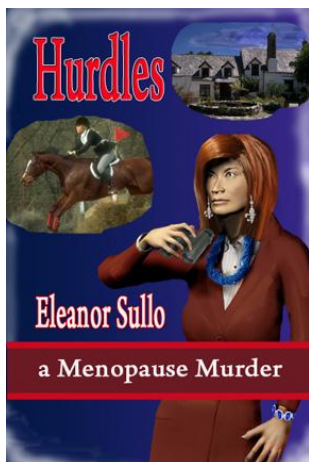
## member news

**Kristan Higgins** can add “*New York Times* Bestselling Author” to her list of possible tattoos. She’s still leaning toward a simple Yankees logo, however. Kristan gave the welcoming keynote at the Washington Romance Writers Retreat and had a great time with the lovely writers down there, in addition to **Susan Andrews** and **Christine Bunt**, who also made the trek... **Kim Dias** launched a website from the point of view of her vampire heroine...check it out at [www.evaprim.com](http://www.evaprim.com)... **Jennifer Moncuse** has two signings lined up and a third in the words. Her first picture book, written specifically for kindergarteners, will be out soon!

**Paula Sharon’s** ON THIN ICE is a finalist in the FAB 5 Wisconsin Romance Writers contest, winner announced in early June. She’s about to write the two most beloved words to a writer—The End—on her current WIP. Enjoy, Paula!... **Allan Cooper** just wrote a short piece dealing with different stages of life, up to seniorhood. Great to see how much you’re writing these days, Allan!... **Christine Wunch’s** paranormal romance, *Mystic Ink*, has finaled in the New Hampshire Query Quandary contest. Woot woot!... **Gerard Chartier** submitted 10 pages to Steph Murray from Crescent Moon Press, who asked Gerry to make some revisions and submit a full. Boo-yah!

**Huntley Fitzpatrick** is working on revisions of her first book as well as the synopsis for her second. Hang in there, Huntley! We’ll see your name in bookstores soon!... **Bob Bonitz** and **Judy Roth** just completed the first draft of a new manuscript and have high hopes that the collaboration will be a success... **Laurie Nichols** wrote an essay and won an Appraisal Institute Education Trust Designation Scholarship!

**Ellie Sullo** will be signing copies of her latest at the CAPA Meet the Authors gala at Olde Mystik Village on May 21 and 22... **Patti Cavaliere** had another piece make it through the first round of Winter 2011 Women on Writing contest—good luck, Patti! And congratulations to **Jessica Andersen** for an RT Top Pick on *Bear Claw Conspiracy*! Are we surprised? No. Are we proud? You bet.



**Ellie Sullo's** wild and wacky Women on Fire make another appearance, this time on the horse competition trail and in a haunted English Manorhouse in Book Three of the Menopause Murder mystery series, *Hurdles*. The book is available from Wings ePress and all the usual suspects (including digital formats, ie., Kindle, etc.). For more info, visit <http://www.wings-press.com>.

## calendar

May 14<sup>th</sup>~Fiction Fest 2011!

We need you! Want to volunteer? It’s wicked fun—on Friday afternoon, we stuff goody bags and do whatever prep we can to get ready for the big day. We’ll also need some folks early Saturday morning. If you’re interested, contact Jennifer Fusco at [jenniferafusco@gmail.com](mailto:jenniferafusco@gmail.com).

**June 9**...Roberta Buland discusses editing your manuscript to enhance your chances at publication. This seasoned editor will discuss common mistakes and how to view your work as would an industry professional.

**Bonus session: Writing the Dread Synopsis.** Yes, it *does* seem harder than giving birth to a twelve-pound baby, but don’t worry gang. Toni Andrews knows a lot about writing these bad boys. Help is on the way.

## member releases

*Bear Claw Conspiracy*  
by Jessica Andersen

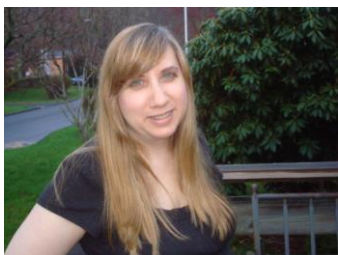
Forensic analyst Gigi Lynd had an agenda. And it didn't include facing off against cop-turned-ranger Matt Blackthorn. But she'd do anything to help investigate a deadly attack in the Colorado back country and uncover a conspiracy...even partner up with a hardened loner who saw her inexperience as a liability.



Matt couldn't afford a partner like stubborn, sexy Gigi. He'd lost too many men in the line of duty to pretend that he could keep her safe. If he was going to catch the killer, he needed to stay focused. Determined. But his greatest distraction came from a woman he had no choice but to protect...

To order, visit [www.jessicaandersen.com](http://www.jessicaandersen.com) or <http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/0373695470>

## member of the month...Beth Seeber


**Tell us about what you're working on now.**

I'm working on a romantic comedy tentatively titled *A LITTLE NIGHT MUSIC*. Tristan Morgan, a famous rock singer with a potentially career-ending injury,

volunteers his musical expertise to Elise Stanwood, a high school music teacher, when she can't get her women's chorus to sound better than cats in heat. Tristan's already engaged to an equally famous lingerie model but after spending time with Elise he loves that her passion for music rivals his own. Elise can't deny her feelings for Tristan but she's a realist. Only in her delusions, or dreams, does Tristan leave the woman who has just graced the cover of the Sports Illustrated Swimsuit Edition wearing nothing but body paint for her. The invitations have already been mailed to Hollywood's royalty yet Tristan still has two life-altering decisions to make and it's anyone's guess if he'll show up to his own wedding.

I'm also finishing up a screenplay. It's a comedy called *Sleeping with the Fitches*. Four sisters learn the importance of sticking together as a family when one of them takes the dead body of a pawn shop owner to give him a proper burial but inadvertently gets them involved with the mob. Picture *Weekend at Bernie's* meets *Goodfellas*.

**What's the next major step you need to take in your writing?**

*A LITTLE NIGHT MUSIC* was complete but I wasn't happy with certain plot points so I'm revising it now. After that, I'll polish it then hopefully it will be agent time 😊

**What's the hardest part of the writing process for you?**

I swear I have a case of adult A.D.D. because I'm all over the place when I write. To fix that, I've been storyboarding and forcing myself to work from an outline. That sounds like it should make things easier, but I hate being so structured.

**What's your favorite part of the writing process?**

Definitely brainstorming new ideas and characters. I love the blank screen.

**Any quirks or special talents you'd like to share?**

I have this unnatural obsession with office supplies. Pens, notebooks, markers, you name it. I recently discovered paperclips in the shape of a G clef, which made me very excited because most of my WIP's involve music in one way or another. (By that answer you can probably tell it doesn't

take much to get me excited.) Hmm. Talents? I used to do calligraphy. (The beautiful pens and all) It's been a while since I've done it though and my words would probably look more like hieroglyphics now.

**Have you been given any great advice on writing fiction, or do you have any to impart?**

I'm so glad I joined CTRWA because every meeting has given me great advice. I've also gotten great guidance from Shirley Webb, who taught me that, even if you're published, you never stop learning the craft. Huntley Fitzpatrick has helped me make my characters really come alive and Stacy Werner (my critique partner) is great for kicking me in the a\*\* when I need to be kicked. They've been my rock stars ☺

**Who are some of your favorite authors and why?**

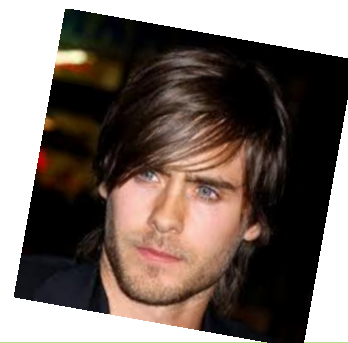
I love the classics - Bronte, Austin, Alcott. My all-time favorite is Shelley's *Frankenstein*. They all wrote such vivid and memorable characters. Lately though, because I write contemporary romance, I've been reading Kristan Higgins, Rachel Gibson and others in that genre.

**Best CT restaurant in your humble opinion?**

I don't know if it's the *best* restaurant, but my kids and I have been loving UMI in West Hartford where the sushi comes by on a conveyor belt (they call it the kaiten.) It's so much fun!

**If you could cast your current hero or heroine, who'd get the call?**

This was much tougher than I thought it would be, but I finally came up with Jared Leto for my rock star and Kristen Bell for my music teacher.


**From *A Little Night Music* by Beth Seeber**

"I have to do something, you know? Most people need food to survive. I need music. I'll starve without it." Tristan's eyes never wavered from hers.

"Yes. Starving. Not good." Good God, she had to get out of there before she said more brilliant things like, "Ugh. Fire."

## Conference Etiquette

SISTER VINCENT MARY is back, my children. I was asked (yes, asked!) to write up a little something about conference etiquette for those of you who might be A) new and B) terrified or just C) unaware of what a conference is like.

A conference is a career-focused event and a chance for you to meet industry professionals and fellow writers at all levels of their careers. As members of the home chapter, we ask that you represent CTRWA as we all see it—a professional group of supportive, informed writers. And so, a few words of advice, applicable to all conferences, not just ours.

**Dress appropriately.** This is your interview with an industry professional. You'll meet people, and they'll remember you...hopefully for the good reasons, not because you were wearing your green monkey pajama bottoms and Derek Jeter t-shirt (note to Miss Higgins: don't wear that).

**Be mindful of others.** During Q&A periods, don't bring up a specific incident from either your book or experiences and force the panelist to try to figure out what's going on. A generalized question is more helpful. For example, rather than, "What did this editor really mean when she said my characters were flat? Because I thought the little sister in my book—her name is Cara, and she's all crazy, and her hair is pink and she has a stud in her tongue, so come on, that's three-dimensional, right?" try instead "Can you talk a little bit about how to present a well-rounded character in the first few pages?" Rather than, "This rejection letter I got said I had a great voice, but they still passed. Why?" you might ask, "Any advice on interpreting rejection letters?"

**Be prepared to discuss your work**—not just with agents and editors, but with those around you. To make a logline, or TV Guide-style description, mention the initial conflict facing hero or heroine and the major obstacle to that conflict, and what's at stake if they fail. Nervous? Try starting out with lines like:

- I love this story because...
- I came up with this idea when...
- I love stories about...

### Basic Conversation Etiquette

- Answer in complete sentences. Be friendly! As nuns are not always known for their warmth and charm, Sister V.M. often pretends to be Rhonda Lane, who is from Kentucky, and whose first words are reputed to have been "It's so nice to see you! I just love your jacket!"
- Don't hijack conversations. This is not your talk show. I will resort to my yardstick should this I see any sign of this. Remember, everyone should have the chance to speak. Don't just wait for them to finish so you can continue your story.
- Use the person's name and maintain eye contact.
- Don't offer unsolicited advice (unless you're a nun).

- Invite others into the conversation; don't pretend you don't notice the other person who would love to speak to that agent, too. Remember—God is watching.
- Neither an expert, a diva nor a babbler be. (Note to Miss Higgins again: Do you think I don't hear you? Kindly rein yourself in.)
- Do not accost our guest speakers in the bathroom. If you don't get the chance to talk to an illustrious guest, you are welcome to write a warm and lovely email.
- Never gossip. Don't listen to gossip. Just excuse yourself. Your good deed will be rewarded.
- If you are pitching, expect to be nervous. You don't have to announce it. Our agent and editor guests are quite understanding of how difficult it may be to pitch. Telling them you just vomited in the loo will not enhance your presentation.
- Try not to be a deer in the headlights. Good conversation starters at a conference might be...
  - Have you read any great books lately?
  - Who are some of your favorite authors?
  - How'd you meet your spouse? Did you fancy him right away?
  - Do you use anything from your real life in your books?
  - How did you choose the setting from your book?

Most of all, be of good cheer. This will be a wonderful conference, and a lot of people have put in a tremendous amount of time putting it together. Enjoy.

### More Rules from Sister Vincent Mary

**Turn off your cell phone ringer** during workshops and speeches. Better still, turn off your cell phone completely and just be in the moment. But if I hear a cell phone ring, I'm coming over with my yardstick.

Don't pitch someone in the bathroom. Pitch only during your pitch session or if asked.

Don't ask someone how much they make. If she or he wants you to know, you'll know. Otherwise, remember the golden rule of conversation: don't discuss religion, politics or money.

Don't brag about how good your book is. If you're Nora Roberts, Stephen King, Harper Lee or Dr. Seuss, this rule is lifted. Otherwise...don't brag.

Don't become intoxicated (or arrive that way). Heavens! Yes, there is a wine event after the book signing. Behave.

## Know Thy Genre

by Kourtney Heintz, CTRWA Member

WHEN I SET out to write a novel, I don't have a clue what genre it will be. I've never once declared, "This year, I'll write a techno-thriller with romantic elements." Instead, a concept comes to me. A kernel of a story. And then the characters slowly introduce themselves. The plot weaves together.

But once I write "The End", the genre question can no longer be ignored. Genre matters. It affects every aspect of your road to publication, including:

- Choosing which writing organizations to join. Most organizations are genre-specific (e.g., Mystery Writers of America and Romance Writers of America).
- Picking conferences to attend. Many are geared toward a specific genre or have breakout sessions that are genre-based.
- Deciding which online course to enroll in.
- Bidding on charity auctions where partial critiques are offered for specific genres.

And this is all before you actually try to pitch your manuscript.

During pitching and querying, your genre takes on even more importance. It's crucial that you properly categorize your novel because agents and editors specialize in certain segments of the market. One may love romance, another mystery, some only literary fiction.

So how do you figure out your genre?

If you're me, you list the key aspects of your story. Do some research on genre categories and pick the one you think fits. Then go to conferences and writers' groups and wait for someone to contradict you. Sometimes, it's easier to figure out what a story isn't rather than what it is. Process of elimination definitely became my friend in my genre journey.

One of my books went through four genres. It had paranormal elements and time travel, so it started out as fantasy. Then I thought it was urban fantasy. But the main plot revolved around solving a murder. So I tried mystery. Finally, it ended up being a YA paranormal mystery.

My advice? Read widely and get a feel for different genres. Distill your story down to a logline--that's the main thrust and has to encapsulate your genre. Try to befriend published authors and pick their brains about where your novel falls along the genre spectrum.

*Kourtney Heintz is currently querying her first novel, Reckonings, a YA paranormal mystery. Years of working in financial services provided the perfect backdrop for her imagination to run amuck at night, dreaming up stories of ghosts, time travel, and other supernatural happenings. She resides in Connecticut with her warrior lapdog, Emerson, her parents and their three Golden Retrievers.*

## What I've Learned Since I Typed 'The End'

by Marian Lanouette, CTRWA Member

THE END IS the beginning. That's what I've learned. It is the beginning of revisions and editing and re-writes and more re-writes, until you think you have it perfect to query; and then it's more editing and revisions if you're lucky enough to be offered a contract.

I have always loved writing. I had my first poem published in eighth grade, in the city newspaper and have been writing ever since.

In the last two years I have written two novels, three novellas and articles, including documenting new ideas for other stories to be explored in the future.

I finished my first novel and felt empowered with the knowledge that I loved my story as did my beta readers. I started my queries and mailed my manuscripts out waiting on the replies, knowing that a contract would soon be in my hands.

And then the replies started to come in, form letters that said thanks, but no thanks. They didn't offer encouragement nor did they discourage me. I didn't take those personally. How could I, it was a form letter.

So, I continued to mail out my queries and continued to wait. Then one day an editor took the time to reply and offered some insight into those rejections. It hurt, but it was the best thing that could have happened to me. At last, I knew what I had to fix. I started taking classes and seminars that taught me about POV, characters and tight writing. I also joined professional writing organizations that offer support to the up and coming authors. I have found that most authors published or unpublished are very giving and are willing to share their experiences with other writers.

I'm still polishing these manuscript, but continue to create new ones. There's no way I could or would want to shut out these voices in my head. I continued to take seminars and classes to improve my craft and have confidence that one day I will see my stories in print.

*Marian Lanouette writes mysteries with a romantic element because life is both mysterious and romantic. She's been writing for twenty years and decided to submit her writing to agents and publishers after she completed her first novel last year. Since then she has completed several short stories, two more novels and two novellas (all in editing and revisions at this time).*

In life we don't get what we want,  
we get in life what we are. If we  
want more we have to be able to  
be more, in order to be more you  
have to face rejection.

—Farrah Gray



## Interview with Kensington Editor

### Megan Records

compiled by RR Smythe

#### **AS AN EDITOR, what types of stories are you looking for at this time?**

I'm looking for YA and romance. Occasionally I'll look at women's fiction that is Jane Austen related. In YA, I lean towards dark paranormals or light contemporaries, authors like Stephanie Perkins, Libba Bray, Julie Kagawa, Meg Cabot, Maureen Johnson, etc. Generally there is at least a small romantic storyline. Stuff like ROOM doesn't particularly interest me. I haven't found straight historical YAs that I love, but I'm certainly open to them.

#### **Kensington has started K Teen. Could you tell us about it?**

We are super excited about K Teen! Right now, we are planning to publish a book a month, and are looking for pretty much everything. We have 7 editors actively acquiring.

#### **What have you seen too much of lately, if anything?**

I've seen a lot of fairies lately. I'm not against it, but with things like vampires and fairies, even the strongest manuscript is going to have trouble standing out, because there are so many already in the marketplace.

#### **What is your favorite part of being an editor? Least favorite?**

Favorite part: falling in love with manuscripts, getting to read books before everyone else does, and hearing someone gush about a book I worked on. Least favorite: falling in love and not being able to work on a project, having to let go of authors because of lack of sales.

#### **Describe your dream author. And of course...the author from Hades.**

Dream authors turn their books in on time, have reasonable expectations, and of course, write fabulous books! Authors from hell can be described using one or more of these: diva, drama queen, nag, or whiner.

**What do you read for pleasure? Name three of your all time favorite books or authors.** I'm lucky because I work on the same genres I read for pleasure! YA and romance. As I have currently have over 600 keepers, narrowing it down to 3 is so hard. ...I'll go with J.K. Rowling, L.M. Montgomery, and Meg Cabot.

**Tell us about a few titles you have coming out you are excited about.**

## Dare to Daydream

by Christine Wunch, CTRWA Member

**DARE TO DAYDREAM.** Yes, you read that correctly. So often we're told - butt in chair, hands on keyboard (or pen to paper) and write. And while actual writing must happen, we also need to daydream.

Let's face it - we're writers, we make stuff up. And in order to do that, we need to spend time imagining things. I like to let my mind wander and try out new possibilities (like playing the game "what if"). Sometimes creative thought has to be approached sideways. The brain is funny like that. The great idea sneaks up on you when you aren't expecting it. Think of ideas like love. As the old wisdom goes, if you seek true love, it will elude you. Ideas are like that too. Often times, they find you when you aren't looking.

So I say, daydream away.

And not always about your latest storyline or characters. I usually get my best ideas when thinking about nothing in particular. And, like magic, my mind conjures up a solution to a plot hole or a story I didn't know existed until that moment. Some of my best ideas have appeared while making dinner or driving the car.

It took me a while to recognize this gift when presented. I have since learned to write everything down - no negativity allowed. Shut down that critical voice, otherwise it will kill your precious daydreams before they have a chance to blossom.

Give yourself permission to stare out the window and soak in the sights. Just make sure you have a pencil and some paper handy in case that idea appears. It's okay. You'll thank yourself later!

Happy writing!

Book gushing! My favorite part! Two projects I'm over the moon about are **AWKWARD** by Marni Bates (Jan 2012) and **TOUCHED** by Corrine Jackson (not yet scheduled).

Here's back cover copy for **AWKWARD**:  
*I'm Mackenzie Wellesley, and I've spent my life avoiding the spotlight. But that was four million hits ago...*

*Blame it on that grade school ballet recital, when I tripped and pulled the curtain down, only to reveal my father kissing my dance instructor. At Smith High, I'm*

continued next page

*doing a pretty good job of being the awkward freshman people only notice when they need help with homework. Until I send a burly football player flying with my massive backpack, and make a disastrous—not to mention unwelcome—attempt at CPR. Just when I think it's time for home schooling, the whole fiasco explodes on Youtube. And then the strangest thing happens. Suddenly, I'm the latest sensation, sucked into a whirlwind of rock stars, paparazzi, and free designer clothes. I even catch the eye of the most popular guy at school. That's when life gets really interesting...*

And here's a quick little blurb about TOUCHED:

*Seventeen-year-old Remy O'Malley has always been a freak; unloved, unlovable and freakish of all, she heals people with touch, though her power comes at a steep cost. Every illness or injury she cures becomes her own. The pain she can handle, but she worries a day will come when she won't recover from healing some great and terrible damage. Living in a household with an abusive stepfather, she has healed untold numbers of broken bones, burns and bruises-- her mother's and her own—and then one night her stepfather goes too far.*

*Sent to live with her estranged father and his ready-made, all-too-perfect family, she is no longer sure of her equilibrium. Enter eighteen-year-old Asher Blackwell. Scarred and dangerous, he knows more about her abilities than she does, and she can't resist wanting to know everything about him as he opens up an unknown world to her.*

Don't they both sound awesome?

**How does one submit to you and do you accept equeries? Agented or unagented? Do you twitter or facebook or blog?**

I prefer equeries, and both agented and unagented authors are welcome to submit. I am on Twitter (@meganrecords), which I use frequently, and on Facebook, which I use rarely.

**Will you attend any conferences this year?**

Yes, I'm attending RWA, RT, and NEC RWA in Salem, MA.

**In a year, what is your typical percentage of signing new writers?**

I usually get around 300 submissions, and of those I sign 4 or 5 new authors.

...and our new question section- an absolute take off of inside the actors studio-adapted for books (how's that for a switch)

## INSIDE THE EDITORS STUDIO

**Tell us your favorite movie:** North and South (the Richard Armitage version)

**Tell us your favorite protagonist-hero or heroine, your choice.** I'm going to go with Anne from the Anne of Green Gables series

**What is your favorite word or phrase?** I use the word AWESOME entirely too much. Also, pamplemousse, the French word for grapefruit, because it's fun to say.

**Least favorite word or phrase?** Moist. Never liked that word.

**If you werent an editor, you would be a \_\_\_\_\_.** You mean I should have had a back-up plan?!? I'm going to say computer programmer.

**Favorite quote?** A room without books is like a body without a soul.--Cicero

**Also...there's the intangible voice. What type of voice hooks your attention?**

One that makes you laugh, cry--in your own words. The only consistent thing about the voices I like is that there is something in them and in the characters that I can relate to. They suck me in and make me want to read faster and slower at the same time.

About Megan Records:

Megan Records has a B.A. in English and a M.S in Publishing. Before Kensington, she worked at an educational publishing house. Now, she's found a job that actually pays her to do what she was already doing in her spare time—reading. For reading recommendations, tips for aspiring authors, and random comments from daily life as an editor, follow her on Twitter @meganrecords.

*This article was first published in YARWA's March 2011 Edition of The Scoop.*

### Things *not* to say to an agent or editor

You rejected me and I'll never forget it, and when I'm more famous than Nora, man, will you be sorry.

Have you made a sale of more than six figures recently? Because that's my starting point.

I don't see why everything thinks J.K. Rowling/Stephen King/Janet Evanovich are so hot. I honestly think I'm better.

Hey, want to get a drink? These conferences are so boring unless you're wasted, know what I mean?

pointless but fun

**In honor of Mother’s Day—what do you love about your dear old mom?**

I love my mom for a zillion reasons, but as a mom myself but the newest reason is this: she made everything look so easy and effortless when I was a kid and I now know that was all an act to help me grow up safe and secure. I hope I'm as good an actor as she is.—Jennifer Moncuse

I loved my mom for her tenacity. She had a ‘never give up’ philosophy that still drives me today!—Paula Sharon

I love my mom because she is awesome, fun, supportive and she loves me back no holds barred!—Christine Wunch

I loved my mom for her snarky sense of humor, which never failed her through her stormy life, including the deaths of both her sisters and her own car accident, which resulted in her being paralyzed from the neck down. She could, and did, laugh at everything. — Huntley Fitzpatrick

I loved my mom because when I was a little boy she always dressed and undressed me (until age 26). I'll be damned if I can get my wife to do the same thing. —Allan Cooper

I love my mom because she always believes in me. —Barbara Gerwien

Every other week my mom drove 1.5 hours to catch a train to Boston's North Station, where she took a cab to South station, where she took another train to New Haven, where I picked her up so she could bring me to chemo where she proceeded to cheat at cards while I was on drugs. — Kelly Morse

I love my mom because she loves me and accepts me just the way I am. —Kimberly Fox

I loved my Mom because she was never too busy to listen. —Tracy Costa

My mom taught to laugh at myself. That’s priceless. Love you, Mom! —Kristan Higgins

I loved my Mom because she always taught me to speak my mind, which sometimes takes courage, heart, and a strong sense of honor, all of which she possessed in abundance. — Janet Messina

Note on the Media Director’s Letter:

I was quite overcome at times during Sherrilyn’s talk, and therefore not all of my recollections of what she said may be 100% accurate.

2011 ctrwa board

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“I hate to disappoint you but my rubber lips are immune to your charms.”

—Robin to Poison Ivy, *Batman & Robin*...quite possibly the most wonderfully horrible movie quote ever.

