



♥ Winner of the 1999 RWA® Mid-Sized Chapter Newsletter Contest ♥

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♥ A publication of the Mid-Michigan Chapter (#12) of Romance Writers of America® ♥

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Annette Briggs, Editor

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Mission Statement:

The purpose of the Mid-Michigan Chapter of Romance Writers of America® is to promote excellence in romantic fiction, to help writers become published and establish careers in their writing field, and to provide continuing support for writers within the romance publishing industry.

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♥
Minutes of our chapter meeting and treasurer's report can be accessed by members at:
MMRWABUSINESS@yahoo.com

Happy FEBRUARY Birthday!

Lana Miersen 4 Catherine McClain 6



Diane Burton

Diane Burton is the author of *SWITCHED*, released by ImaJinn Books. Diane's recap of her January program: "Revealing Character or What's in Your Hero's Wallet?" can be found on page 2.

Many thanks to contributors to the FEBRUARY Mid-Michigan Mirror

Because Michigan winters can be treacherous and members drive from long distances to meetings, Mid-Michigan has opted to cancel the February meeting. The March Mirror will give directions and the preview of our March program in Grand Rapids.



A Note From Wil's Desk

By Wil Emerson, President

February is the most bittersweet month. The deep chill of winter has burrowed into our bones, fingertips are blue and eyes water from the below freezing temperatures. Maybe that's why it was the last month on the Roman calendar.

With February out of the way, the rest of the year would be good, maybe even wonderful. However, there is a sweet side of February. Love blossoms in all forms in February. How many November babies do you know? And the month isn't only for lovers. Glossy ads display warm hearts and fragrant flowers, dreamy dark chocolate drips from window displays--all for the men, women and children who think about the special people in their lives--all the people they love. Sure, we 'love' all year long but isn't it fun to tell a special someone, friend, neighbor, fellow writer, how much you really, really love them?

Yes, February is a passionate month. And Red Passion is an exceptional motivating force. You can climb Mount Everest if you let passion guide you, soar above the earth if passion props your wings ---or write a darn good book if you let passion unfold with your imagination. Passion in February probably causes the Riechter scale to shudder. So let's get on with passion for the written word. Pen a romantic novel. Let your heart take you to heights beyond expectation...shoot for the stars, aim your arrow high...write about those you love, those you want to love. Romance.....what a novel idea!

Cheers, **Wil**



Revealing Character or What's in Your Hero's Wallet?

By Diane Burton



Discovering the characters in the books we write is as varied as how we write. Whether we do extensive research beforehand or write by the seat of our pants, we all must learn more about our characters than what is seen at first glance. Otherwise, our characters will appear flat and not interesting enough for the reader to care about.

Sometimes, our characters cooperate...like a friend who tells all. Sometimes, our characters reveal themselves slowly through their appearance, speech, and what others say about them. And sometimes, they are downright uncooperative.

Through trial and error, most writers discover a technique that works for them. Among those techniques are:

1. Biographical charts (pages of fill-in-the-blanks about the character's life from birth to the present)
2. Astrological charts (what do the stars say?)
3. Personality tests (e.g., Myer-Briggs Personality Profile)
4. Interview the character

What's in Your Hero's Wallet? Continued on page 3

What's in Your Hero's Wallet? Continued from page 2

All of these techniques work...for some characters, some of the time. I propose that you can learn a lot about a character by looking in his wallet. For instance:

What kind of wallet? Real leather or imitation? New or worn?

Driver's license? Age, height, weight? Turn it over. Change of address? Donor?

Credit cards? What kind? How many?

How much cash?

Pictures?

Membership cards (AAA, health club)? Insurance card?

Receipts?

What's missing? Why?

The same thing can work for the heroine. Even more revealing is her purse. A character on a crime show once said that if a woman wants to hide anything, she'll keep it in her purse because no man will look through a woman's purse. Is your character so open that it doesn't bother her for anyone to go through her purse? Will the contents embarrass her? Is it a jumbled mess or ultra-neat?

So, the next time you see a Capital One commercial, think about your character and what's in his wallet.

Diane Burton is the author of SWITCHED released by ImaJinn Books in August 2001. A fourteen-year member of the Mid-Michigan RWA® chapter, Diane has been president, secretary, treasurer, membership chair and retreat co-chair. She served on Romance Writers of America's national communication and long-range planning committees. By day, Diane delves into oil and gas leases, but in her "other" job she wrestles with characters who won't behave. Diane lives in the Lansing-area with her own hero of thirty-three years. For an excerpt from SWITCHED, check out Diane's website at: www.dianeburton.com.



MEMBER NEWS

Dawn Bartley: Received my second contest entry feedback. (One was a 47 out of a possible 50.)
Rewriting my WIP.

Holli Bertram: Finished a paranormal, on an agent hunt.

Rosanne Bittner: My inspirational, *WHERE HEAVEN BEGINS*, is being reissued in March 2007! This is good news! This book placed second for the prestigious WILLA literary award presented by Women Writing the West, and recently I received a lovely plaque from WWW. Currently, I'm still working on my World War II story, *LAST NIGHT IN FRANCE*, a big project that is taking a lot of time, but my agent has high hopes for the book, which will be published under my pseudonym, Frances Rose. After writing for nearly 25 years, with 57 books published, I'm now offering editing services through my web site to anyone who wants to take advantage of a multi-published author's experience. Anyone who is interested in editing services for most aspects of book writing and marketing--chapters, synopses, an entire book, cover letters, presentation--(through e-mail or regular mail) may contact me via e-mail at bittner@parrett.net for prices and other details. We are heading for our condo in Vegas January 26 through March 23, but I can still be contacted through e-mail.

Member News continued on page 4

Member News continued from page 3

Annette Briggs: Got the Mirror off to the 2006 National Newsletter contest.

Diane Burton: Working on a romantic suspense that takes place in Grand Rapids and west side of Michigan.

Sue Charnley: Looking forward.

Wil Emerson: Writing and revising—2 projects in to agents. *Bone Music* making waves in the mystery world. April, my favorite character in WIP, is in love!

Aileen Hyne: Hasn't been doing much.

Anne Marie King-Jakubiak: Been writing, going to physical therapy three times a week, and training our new dog.

Laurie Kuna: Have upcoming book events—Feb. 4 in Romeo and a signing at Barnes and Noble in Grand Rapids on February 10. Working on a fourth book for ImaJinn—a paranormal historical.

Cathy McClain: Entered another contest, getting involved in my WIP again, had a blast judging GH, continuing the agent search.

Katie McClain: Not doing much writing at the moment—working on moving to LA.--lots of lists and budgets, no room for fictional creativity.

Lana Miersen: Organizing office; repairing home network; working on improvements to chapter website; submitted news release to LSJ re: January meeting info; started on 2005 taxes; mentoring 14-year-old nephew, a budding SF writer; letting ideas for rewrites simmer in my subconscious.

Maris Soule: Working on short stories, sent one out, submitted mystery to new publisher, other publisher promised to read in February, will judge Daphne, working on second mystery rewrite.

Lisa Childs Theeuwes: Waiting to see if proposal for blind NEXT book is a go and waiting to see where book bought for Signature will go since that's been canceled.

Welcome New Member

Julie Lea: I've been writing on and off for about ten years. I have about 7 or 8 books begun, but have real trouble finishing the ones I've started. I tend to write romantic suspense and have submitted to and been reject by Harlequin. I also work as a librarian and excel at research and would be happy to help if anyone needs it.

Approaching MARCH Birthdays

Jackie Braun Fridline 7 Lynette Curtis 12 Pamela Trombley 22



Sincere condolences to Jackie Braun Fridline on the recent loss of her father.



February, the month of Valentines, what better time to focus on:

Awakening Sexual Tension

By Tereasa Bellew

I began to better understand the term sexual tension by accident. My husband Jim and I were putting the finishing touches on our front porch, the important parts, like the railing. In one of those graceless moments with a few misplaced tools, and I fell backwards, landing on the boulders scattered around our retaining wall.

After the trip to the ER and x-rays, Jim -- did I say hero? --- the strong, silent type, paced the hallway like an expectant father, his brow wrinkled with worry. I had a fracture in my thigh bone, or as the doctor called it- my femur. I spent the night in the hospital with a cast from my ankle to the top of my thigh.

The following day my husband assured the doctor I would be well cared for and I was released. Arriving home without the aid of a wheelchair, Jim lifted me from the car and carried me into the house. He was quite capable, I decided, resting my head upon his shoulder, the scent of Irish spring clinging to his skin.

The next several hours were a medicated blur, drifting in and out of sleep, images of my hero-husband bending over me looking oddly enough like Tom Selleck, baby blue eyes, mustache and all.

Now, I've read that sexual tension isn't about the sex, but rather the wanting of it, the softest touch or heated gaze that leaves you yearning for something more.

And, you can't have sexual tension without conflict, or the pull -- why these two can not be joined together. Aside from the obvious reason, my leg hurt like the dickens, another obstacle was the arrival of my mother-in-law, Deloris.

Deloris is a doll, but imagine Mrs. Doubtfire, wearing a housedress and support hose. She's from the old school, which means no "huggy," no "kissy" -- you know, -- nothing! All of a sudden we were trying to find a few private moments alone.

Deloris doted on me all day while Jim worked. When he got home, it was to a list of things that needed to be done or errands that had to be run. I barely got to say hello before she sent him across town searching for ointment and lotions. She'd even lined up a wheelchair so I could get around the house better.

During the day our couch became my recovery bed. And in the evening, Jim waited on me, handing me iced tea, candy, even the TV remote.

Each night, I was moved into the spare bedroom, alone. Jim was barely allowed two feet into the room, his mom insisting I needed my rest. 'Don't sit down, you'll jiggle the mattress,' her voice booming with authority. I have to admit, he looked incredibly sexy carrying laundry down the hallway, a dish towel hanging from his back pocket.

Occasionally, Jim over-rode his mother's protests and would slip down beside me, tenderly touch my head or drop kisses on my brow. He'd even manage to sneak in quick chastised kisses that left me breathless, clinging to him while Deloris beckoned him from the other room.

Over the next couple of weeks an awakening desire -- the wanting that had first drawn me to my wonderful spouse came seeping back into my life full bloom. Until then, sexual tension had been evasive in my twenty-plus years of marriage. After all, I *was* a sure thing.

Awakening Sexual Tension continued on page 6

Awakening Sexual Tension continued from page 5

Endless hours lying down had left my hind-end numb. Mulling over “Tom’s” pleas, Deloris consented that physical therapy might be a good thing. Imagine my delight when “Tom” drew me across his lap and began to rub my aching backside. Did I say numb? Wrong!

His strong hands kneaded and massaged the taunt muscles of my buttocks. From the recliner, Deloris looked on, a stern nod indicating to keep it decent. She couldn’t possibly know that beneath my stomach I could feel the stirring of his desire, alive and well.

But the pain from my injury was controlled temporarily with Vicoden. In a few short hours the throbbing ache would return, deep within the bone and spread through out my body.

A daily massage now became part of our routine. I savored my husband’s smell, his strength, the gentleness of each stroke. Those same hard-working hands worked magic on my aching body. Only now, they were... incredibly sexy, trimmed nails and calloused fingers, hands wide enough to span the distance comfortably from my shoulder blades and down my spine.

My husband leaned down and whispered in my ear what he was going to do to me when the cast was off, making me tremble. Awareness developed between us, one common goal, to get well and on to bigger and better things.

Like a young girl after a date, I thought about our goodnight kisses hours before turning in. I savored the faint taste of lemon sugared tea, delighted in the soft prickles from his mustache, his smile that said how much he loved me.

I need to remind you that I did have one good leg which was getting hairier by the day. I kept it covered with the afghan as much as possible. With Deloris’ approval, “Tom” ran a tub of warm water, laid out the wash cloth, razor and cream and announced he was going to shave it for me.

What?

He nodded, giving me that charismatic smile, a slow mischievous grin spreading across his face. I’m sure we sounded like two kids sharing a pool, quietly giggling as his hands plunged beneath the suds searching for the soap. He lathered and scrubbed every inch of my body, even washed my hair.

I recovered faster than originally diagnosed, and we made the trip to have the cast taken off. Deloris returned home, leaving a lovely dinner in the fridge, a note of well wishes and instructions to call if anything came up.

Who was she kidding?

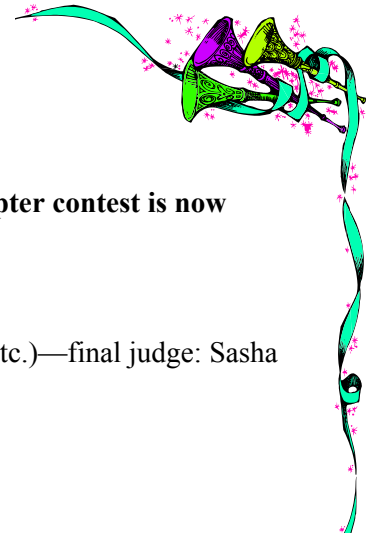
Finally, the moment we’d been waiting for. Our couch hadn’t seen so much action since cartoons. No matter how light, or insignificant, when the stirrings of emotions are present, all it takes is a touch to start a flame.

Tereasa Bellew is a member of Mid-Michigan RWA, has completed three manuscripts and is working on her fourth, a romantic suspense titled, Love Thy Neighbor. She served on the Mid-Michigan Retreat committee as book chairman for two years. She is a long time member of The Writer's All, and is currently moderating TRINE, a group for novel and essay writers.



The 2006 Happily Ever After Contest

-- It takes more than a great beginning...



Mid-Michigan Romance Writers of America's "Happily Ever After" last chapter contest is now accepting entries in the following categories:

Short/Long Contemporary Series—final judge: Gail Chasan, Silhouette

Single Title/Mainstream with Romantic Elements (young adult, women's fiction, etc.)—final judge: Sasha Bogin, Mira

Romantic Suspense —final judge: Gina Bernal, Penguin Putnam

Historical—final judge: Tova Sacks, Berkley

Paranormal (shapeshifters, fantasy, SF, time travel, etc.)—final judge: Cindy Hwang, Berkley/Jove

Inspirational—final judge: Diane Dietz, Steeple Hill Books

Erotica/Sensual Romance—final judge: TBD, Editor from Ellora's Cave

The overall contest winner, as determined by judging editors, will receive a proposal critique from Kim Lionetti, Literary Agent of BookEnds, LLC.

Fee: \$20 MMRWA Members, \$25 other RWA members, \$30 all others

Deadline for Entry Postmark: March 3, 2006 / Deadline for Entry Receipt: March 17, 2006

Entry: The last chapter (and epilogue, if applicable) of your manuscript, plus a synopsis of no more than 3 pages, for a maximum total of 30 pages. The entry must include the final scene in its entirety. All entries must be un-contracted at the time of the contest entry postmark deadline.

Eligibility: The "Happily Ever After" Contest is open to unpublished authors and to published authors writing in a genre in which they are not published or contracted by the contest entry postmark date of March 3, 2006.

Further details, entry forms and rules at: <http://www.midmichiganrwa.org/contest.html>



The following article first appeared in the April 2005 issue of Inklings, the newsletter of Romance Writers Ink, Tulsa, Oklahoma. Used with Permission.

Off The Top of My Heart -- Endings

By Gloria Harchar

I've been flipping through old notes from years of studying the craft of writing romances when I stumbled across information I took from a workshop given by Meryl Sawyer on a subject that I haven't seen much discussion about -- not as much as beginnings. I would like to talk about endings, particularly troubleshooting for problem endings.

Off The Top of My Heart -- Endings continued on page 8

Off The Top of My Heart -- Endings continued from page 7

The first point I would like to make is that after the climax, (the point where the core conflict is resolved), anything that happens afterward will be anticlimactic. The resolution is the outcome of the climax on the characters. The finale is the resolving of any loose ends which couldn't have been dealt with earlier.

Remember that in a romance the story is over for the reader when the hero and heroine fall in love and admit it. Be careful what you do after reaching the climax of your book. Editors feel that the more tightly written books where the climax and the resolution come close together work the best. After you've written the ending, check to make certain it is tight by asking these questions:

Have you shown character change in the protagonist, (that is, other than having found true love)?

Is the reader positive that the hero and heroine's love will last?

Has the villain gotten his just desserts, and were the hero and/or heroine involved in this?

Has the reader been involved emotionally?

Have you tied up all loose ends?

There are several types of endings and I would like to discuss these. One is the open ending such as in *Gone With The Wind*. The author doesn't answer the questions she has set forth in the book. This type of ending isn't recommended in romances, unless perhaps the book is part of a series and the suspense isn't resolved.

Internal and external conflicts are solved almost simultaneously--an example of this is the movie *Ghost*, when the hero is finally able to say that he loves the heroine after the murderer is caught. A recent book I read with an ending like this is Julie Garwood's *Murder List*, although the ending had a little wrapping up about the motives of the killer and a discussion of the lovers' feelings for each other, or a bonding scene.

Sometimes, when the hero and heroine have had several difficulties and have had a lot of conflict, just knowing they're together doesn't satisfy the reader. A question lingers -- are they going to make it and truly live happily ever after? Since we live in a society where marriages don't always last, questions like this are very valid.

The self-realization is the character's growth in that she overcomes barriers to love. Many romances focus on the search for self that leads to character change. Because a *Husband is Forever*, a Special Edition by Marie Ferrarella, is an excellent example of a book with this sort of ending that I've recently read. The hero is the product of past failed relationships and his problem is that he has a hard time communicating. The heroine is a talk show host who is good at pulling information out of people, but she meets her challenge with the hero. The hero is the one who has to realize that he can become a better communicator of his feelings if he has enough desire to work on it-and he does because he wants his relationship to succeed with the heroine.

You can use an epilogue when most problems have been resolved by the climax. This tight ending often delivers the most emotional impact. An epilogue can handle any questions that arose in the resolution.

Historical epilogues answer questions of fact that might bog down the narrative. If an important historical event occurs after the ending of your story, you can use an epilogue rather than to continue the story. Author's notes can also be used for this purpose.

Off The Top of My Heart — Endings continued from page 8

Mystery or suspense epilogues answer questions that have been resolved after the mystery has been concluded, as in Murder List mentioned above.

Character epilogues often extend the story into the future, telling what happened to the hero and heroine in their lives together as a happy couple. However, some editors warn that this can be overused.

Characterization line is a technique in which a final line sums up the character, revealing how they've changed. Julie Garwood did this in Saving Grace (The line was 'She was his saving grace'), as well as Dani Sinclair in Secret Cinderella, a Harlequin Intrigue, with "'Working on happily-ever-after.'"

Title Tie-In Line in which the author links the final line to the title. Don't count on this one because too often publishers change titles. As a matter of fact, The Call, an article in the April 2005 Romance Writers Report, Kelley St. John mentions that her study showed that forty six percent of the authors interviewed had their titles changed by the publishers.

Poignant Comment is when some authors are able to make a statement about life that sums up their story, in other words, the story lesson or theme. This ending can be found in Endangered by Magic, the third book of my Quelgheny Romances.

Gloria Harchar is the author of the Quelgheny Romances: Kissed by Magic, published in January 2004, Enchanted By Magic, released December 2004, and Endangered by Magic in August 2005. Visit her website at www.gloriaharchar.com.

**Helpful websites on the topic of endings:**

Secrets of Writing: Resolutions and Endings by James D. Hudnall:

http://jameshudnall.com/blog.php?/weblog/secrets_of_writing_resolution_and_endings/

Endings are Hard by Kathy Carmichael:

<http://www.kathycarmichael.com/endings.workshop.2.html>

Endings by Lori Handeland: <http://www.eclectics.com/articles/endings.html>

Satisfying Resolutions by Susan Wiggs, this one took a moment to load:

<http://www.romantictimes.com/index.html?/data/tips/488.html>



The Retreat From Harsh Reality

April 21 - 23, 2006

Our 2006 Guest Speaker, Merline Lovelace grew up at air force bases all over the world as the daughter of a career air force veteran. Childhood in Newfoundland and France and almost half of the fifty states has sparked a lifelong love of travel that she continues to indulge to this day.

A Woodrow Wilson scholar, she graduated magna cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa, from Ripon College, WI, with honors in German and Russian. She also studied Mandarin Chinese at Princeton University and Middlebury College, VT; earned a Masters from Troy State University, AL; and attended Harvard's Kennedy School of Government.

During her twenty-three year military career, Colonel Lovelace served tours in Taiwan, in Vietnam, and at the Pentagon with the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Her favorite assignment was as commander of Eglin Air Force Base, the biggest and best base in the air force. Her many military awards and decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Force Legion of Merit with oak leaf cluster, and the Bronze Star.

When she hung up her uniform for the last time, Colonel Lovelace decided to combine her love of adventure with a flare for storytelling, basing many of her tales on her experiences in the service. Since then, she's produced one action-packed sizzler after another. She now has 60 published novels to her credit, many of which have made USA Today and Waldenbooks bestseller lists. Over 7 million copies of her works are in print in thirty countries.

2005 saw the release of a new series of military thrillers featuring former USAF Special Agent Cleo North: *The First Mistake*, April 2005; *The Middle Sin*, May 2005, and *The Last Bullet*, June 2005.

Merline's novels have won numerous honors, including the Romance Writers of America's® prestigious RITA award - the Oscar of the publishing world. She's also very proud of the fact that the University of Oklahoma chose her as the 1998 Oklahoma Writer of the Year, adding her name to a roster of literary luminaries that includes Louis L'Amour and Tony Hillerman.

Married for more than 35 years to the handsome hero she met her second day in the Air Force, Merline enjoys golf, travel, and long, lively dinners with friends and family.

Check out Merline's website, <http://www.merlinelovelace.com/> for more details about her fascinating careers and her books!

For more details and registration please go to: <http://midmichiganrwa.org/retreat.html>



MMRWA 2005 Meetings

Unless otherwise noted, meetings are held the third Saturday of each month on a rotating basis at area restaurants and meeting centers. The usual meeting agenda is as follows:
 11:30 a.m., lunch (optional) ♥ 1:00 p.m. (approximate time), program/speaker ♥ 2:00 p.m. (approximate time), business meeting.

Non-members seeking information about Mid-Michigan RWA, our meetings, and joining our chapter may email our membership chair at members@midmichiganrwa.org, or write to MMRWA, P.O. Box 2725, Kalamazoo, MI 49003-2725. Be sure to visit our chapter online at www.midmichiganrwa.org and learn all about us.

2006 MMRWA MEETING SCHEDULE (Tentative)

FEBRUARY	NO MEETING
MARCH	Grand Rapids
APRIL	Retreat at St. Ives
MAY	Kalamazoo
JUNE	Jackson
JULY	NO MEETING
AUGUST	Lansing
SEPTEMBER	Grand Rapids
OCTOBER	Portage Library
NOVEMBER	Jackson
DECEMBER	Christmas party in Lansing



CONTESTS

Compiled by Donna Caubarreaux

E = Electronic Format Available

MO = Members Only

P = Published

Pnr = Published, but not by RWA standards

PC = Not published in category selected

EO = Electronic Only

U = Unpublished

P/3 = Not published in three years

Romance Through the Ages (U - P)

Hearts Through History RW

Deadline: February 25, 2006

First 30 pages + 2 pg unjudged synopsis

<http://www.heartsthroughhistory.com/contest.htm>

Contests continued on page 12

Murder in the Grove (U)

Popular Fiction Assn. of Idaho

Postmarked by 2/28/2006

First 20 pages + 5 page synopsis

<http://partnersincrimeboise.com/contest.htm>

Fabulous Five (U - P/5 - Pnr)

Wisconsin Romance Writers

Received by March 1, 2006

Beginning - ten page max

<http://www.eclectics.com/WisRWA/contests.html>

Contests continued from page 11

Four Seasons (U - Pnr)

Windy City

Received by March 1, 2006

First twenty-five pages

<http://windycityrwa.com/windycityrwa/fourseasons.html>

Inspirational Choice (P - Pnr)

Faith, Hope & Love

Received by March 1, 2006

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<http://www.faithhopelove-rwa.org/contests.htm#ircc>

Frontiers in Writing

Panhandle Professional Writers

Postmarked by March 1, 2006

First 20 pages + up to four page synopsis

<http://panhandleprowriter.org/Frontiers in Writing.htm>

More Than Magic (P)

Romance Writers Ink

Postmarked by March 1, 2006

Copyright of 2005

<http://rwi-rwa.com/content/view/18/32/>

Happily Ever After (U - PC)

Mid-Michigan RWA

Postmarked by March 3, 2006

Final scene up to 27 pages + 3 pg synopsis

<http://www.midmichiganrwa.org/contest.html>

Novel Manuscript Contest

Writers' League of Texas

Postmarked by March 3, 2006

First ten pages + one page synopsis

<http://www.writersleague.org/contests.htm>

Fire & Ice Contest (U - P/5)

Chicago-North Romance Writers

Received by April 1, 2006

Up to first 25 pages.

<http://www.chicagonorthrwa.org/contest.htm>

Best Bite-Vampire Contest (U-

P/5)

Sponsor: Grand Rapids Region RWA

Fee: \$20 RWA member \$25 Non-RWA member

Receipt Deadline: March 4, 2006

Send us your un-judged, 2 page set-up and your best 15 page vampire scene featuring "the bite" or the discovery that the hero or heroine is a vampire.

www.grrrrwa.org

Barclay Sterling (U - P/5)

Lowcountry Romance Writers

Postmarked by March 10, 2006

1 pgs query letter; up to 5 pg synopsis; first three chapters up to 50 pgs.

<http://www.lcrw.org/contests.html>

Dixie First Chapter (U - P/5)

Magnolia State Romance Writers

Received by March 15, 2006

First chapter up to 25 pages

<http://bellsouthpwp2.net/r/8/r81999/entryfm06.htm>

PRISM for Published Authors (P - Pnr)

FF&P Chapter

Received by March 15, 2006

Copyright of 2005

<http://www.romance-ffp.com/prismcontest/informationchedule2006.htm>

Daphne for Published (P - Pnr)

Kiss of Death Chapter

Received by March 15, 2006

Copyright of 2005

<http://www.rwamysterysuspense.org/PublishedContestRules2005.html>

Daphne for Unpublished (U)

Kiss of Death Chapter

Received by March 15, 2006

First 15 pages + one page single-spaced synopsis

<http://www.rwamysterysuspense.org/UnpublishedContestRules2005.html>

Contests continued on page 13

Contests continued from page 12

The Madcap Award (P - Pnr)
Heart & Scroll RWA
Received by April 1, 2006
Copyright of 2005
http://www.heartandscroll.com/contest_Madcap.htm

Touched by Love (U - P/3)
Faith, Hope & Love RWA
Received by April 1, 2006
Up to first 30 pages + one page unjudged synopsis
<http://www.faithhopelove-rwa.org/contests.htm#tbl>

The Royal Ascot (U - P/5 - Pnr)
Beau Monde Chapter
Postmarked by April 1, 2006
Beginning and synopsis not to exceed 30 pgs.
<http://thebeaumont.com/royalascot/>

The Shelia (U - P/5 - Pnr)
Valley Forge Romance Writers
Postmarked by April 1, 2006
Beginning + synopsis (up to 7 pages) not to exceed 35 pgs.
http://www.vfrw.com/contest_entry.htm

Spring Into Romance (U - P/3)
RWA San Diego
Received by April 7, 2006
First thirty pages.
<http://www.rwasd.com/>

Orange Rose for Unpublished (U - P/5)
Orange County Chapter RWA
Received by April 8, 2006
Synopsis + beginning not to exceed 55 pages.
<http://www.occrwa.com/contestold.htm>

TARA (U)
Tampa Area Romance Authors
Received by April 10, 2006
The first chapter, up to 25 pages, including prologue, if applicable.
<http://tara.writerspace.com/firstimpress.htm>

Texas Gold (P)
RWA - East Texas Chapter
Received by April 15, 2006
Copyright of 2005
<http://home.earthlink.net/~ralsobrook/texgold.htm>

We Dare You
Saskatchewan Romance Writers
Postmarked May 15, 2006
First twelve pages
<http://www.saskromancewriters.4t.com/>

Indiana's Golden Opportunity (U - Pnr)
Deadline May 17, 2006
Total entry (manuscript + synopsis) not to exceed 55 pages.
<http://home.insightbb.com/~irwa/contest/contest.htm>

Haunted Hearts (U - P/5 - Pnr)
Gothic Romance Writers
Received by May 31, 2006
First chapter + one page synopsis not to exceed 26 pages.
<http://www.gothrom.org/hhguidelines.html>

Enter Laughing Contest (U - P/5)
Grand Rapids Region RWA
Received by July 1, 2006
2 pg synopsis (unjudged) + first chapter up to 25 pages.
<http://www.grrrwa.org/contest.html>

Check out Contest Alert-All the news on upcoming contests, plus Finalist & Winner listings, questions, etc. Sign up now! ContestAlert-subscribe@yahoo.com. Donna Caubarreaux is a member of Coeur de Louisiane, Scriptscene Chapter, NOLA Stars, Heart of Louisiana, Kiss of Death, and ChickLitWriters of RWA. She received a RWA Service Award in 1997. USED WITH PERMISSION

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The Mirror is in need of “how to” articles, reviews of writing books and writing related websites, member bios and photographs, member book news and activities. Please send all contributions for the Mirror to: mirror@midmichiganrwa.org. DEADLINE TO BE INCLUDED IN THE MARCH 2006 MIRROR is FEBRUARY 25. Guidelines are available at the web mail address above. Looking forward to your contributions, Annette Briggs, Editor.

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