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August 2016

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Letter from the President

[INSERT HERE]

Author's Pledge

I, _____, under threat of bodily harm, do hereby swear that I will never question my writing abilities. Ever.

I will accept it is my destiny to write as surely as my lungs are meant to fill with air, my feet are meant to walk, my ears are meant to hear, my phone is meant to ring, my dog is meant to bark, & my computer will require rebooting.

I pledge to be persistent. If I have to concede a loss on rare occasion, this will not stop me from trying again. I will make a conscientious

effort to forgive the inept few who caused it, but reserve the right to add their name to the list.

I will not compare myself to Nora Roberts. She's good. I'm better. Therefore, I will not intentionally lower myself to her level.

I will strive to forgive the mentally challenged, incompetent, learning-impaired publishers who are incapable of seeing the greatness I place before them. Their ignorance will not make me stray from the path destiny has chosen.

I will have fun and not drink think too much.

I pledge to keep a list of the names of any editors or agents who would declare disinterest in my work. Further, when my story(s) reach the New York Times Best Seller list, I hereby pledge to write each one a sincere, well drafted, 'You're A Dumb Ass' reminder. I will sign my name.

I will forward any rejection letters to my friends who own guns and not be bothered with the little things.

I will be true to myself and expect others to do the same.

I will always remember:

I am a special person, very talented, and very much loved.

Signed on this the _____ day of _____, 2016.

_____

[Your name here]

COMING UP...
September--Cris Crawford - Scrivener, An Interactive Workshop

A Series Can Be a Beautiful Thing
By Kym Roberts

A series can be a beautiful thing; it can also give you a migraine. I've written two series with the authors of *Chick Swagger* and both experiences were completely different from the other. The first one we were all new to the concept. Five women with different ideas, most of them great, some of them not so much. We blundered and faltered, staggered and tripped, but we landed on our feet with a series we can be proud of—*The Noble Pass Affaire Series,* or what we loving call our *Flirting Series.*

We wanted to make it different from most box sets we were seeing for sale by having the books interlink. What were we thinking, right? That concept makes it infinitely more difficult. So we went with something simple: A blind date contest at a resort in Colorado where each author could have their very own couple with their very own story to tell. The common factors, however, were the Resort, the contest, and the owners of the

resort—an elderly Irish couple with a happily-ever-after of their own. Simple.

Wrong. It was far from simple. We had spreadsheets and a group board within our group board on Facebook. We talked and IM'd and texted and emailed and then talk some more. Talk about exhausting! We developed a Pinterest Page because we wanted the same images told from different voices—this was a key part of our series.

Then we had to pick deadlines. That was the hardest part of all. We all had lives outside of writing, and we had writing lives outside of the group. We're talking a minimum of three lives per person—cats have nothing on a writer. On top of that, we all lived in different parts of the county in different time zones. (It was a blessing and a curse not to have someone on the other side of the world.)

We had to make due dates: finish dates, to the editor dates, to the formatter dates, upload dates, and release dates. Don't forget all the promo dates and one author volunteered to create the cover dates. (The second time, we hired a cover artist.)

But we pulled it off and remained friends. How? I'm not sure, it was a challenge to say the least. And then we came up with the bright idea to do it again! What? That's the life of a writer. We like to dig in the dirt, roll in it, get cut and bruised and battered, shower off and do it again. Writing is a lesson in S&M.

For our second series we took it further, we interjected our characters into each other's books. (At that point we probably should have just considered getting tattoos of Dumb & Dumber on our foreheads, possibly dumbest—that would belong to me and Misty Dietz—of the original five, we signed up to do it again.) Remember how lives get in the way? We had health scares, terminal illness diagnosis' and writing contracts that couldn't allow for the type of commitment the new series would require. So we brought in new *Chicks* while the others went on hiatus.

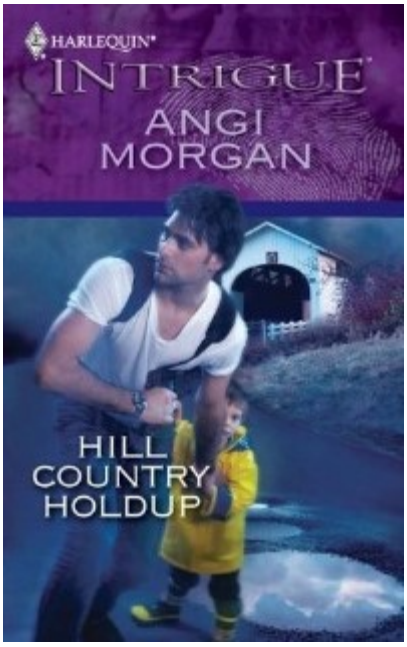
And where did we find these Chicks? Right here in the DFW area! Brynley Bush, Mia London and Tracy A. Ward joined the craziness for a hair-pulling, nail-biting, and bad-language-throwing good time.

The second series from *Chick Swagger* is due out Sept 13th, 2016. Titled, *The Hard Men of the Rockies,* it's being released in time for RomCon where we will celebrate and celebrate till all the stress is gone. We found that the celebration at the end, was the most important part of creating a series. We got to interact with readers and experience the excitement first-hand from the very people we worked so hard for. Like last year, however, a couple authors won't be able to make to trip because of those nasty little things called, lives. But they won't miss out on the party, we will sell their books for them and have a surrogate in their place to take all the group selfies—and the embarrassing photos that

make social media when they least expect it!

Will we have another series? Only time will tell, we haven't released that stress yet. I can tell you, when you consider a group series, plan to have Excedrin by your side and wild a party at the end!

Kym Roberts is a retired detective sergeant who looks for passion, mystery and suspense in every book she reads and writes. She can be found on the web at kymroberts.com, on Facebook at Kym Roberts (author) and on Twitter @kymroberts911. Look for her latest releases, ***Red Lace***, A Hard Men of the Rockies novella, and ***Fatal Fiction***, *A Book Barn Mystery.* Both available for pre-order now!



A Hitchhiker on the Social Networking Highway

by Angi Morgan August 24th, 2010

I have to admit that the more I learn about the social networking highway, the less I want to get behind my own wheel.

Yes, this is me with my thumb in the wind, hitchhiking my way through the promotion of my first book. There are definite advantages to selling a book and waiting two years before it hits bookshelves. My time line was less than ten months (and a second sale four months later).

Whoa, that isn't a complaint, just simply too much to learn in too little time. (THIS IS ME JUMPING UP AND DOWN WITH EXCITEMENT over my career taking off at a fast-pace.) There is just sooo much to learn on a daily basis and hopping onto the Facebook, Twitter, MySpace, Blogging, Website interchange is definitely like driving to a new destination without directions or definitely without a GPS.

So I'm asking for advice today. YOU are in the driver's seat. I'm at a crossroads and need a ride. Which way first? How long do you spend? And what kind of car are you driving?

August 1st, 2016
Hello Fellow Hitchhikers!

I found this short blog post while looking through old files. And as it happens, there's a new version of Hill Country Holdup being released in France this month: ***Pour la vie d'un enfant (For the Life of a Child)***. So I thought I'd take the blog for a second spin…now that I've got my license.

I'm currently on my second set of tires cruising around the social media circle. Or maybe my third as the road is constantly filled with pot holes and hazards. I've had my occasional flat and couldn't get the lug nuts loosened once or twice. And although I hate to admit it, I've been lost and in need of direction a time or two.

Even though the road seems like an endless choice of loop-de-loops and you're not certain which way's the best route for you… You. Can. Do. This. Sometimes you have to put it on auto-pilot to get back to your front door. Hey, sometimes there's public transportation. And you can always ride-share.

Yes, social media is a lot like taking the car out for a spin and discovering the scenery. You'll find your favorite route to wherever you're going. Just remember there might be a road block or two. Construction takes time and you might wind up with a better road.

~ Angi

~ ~

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TEXAS RANGERS: ELITE TROOP

Gunslinger Hard Core Law

July August

A Picture A Day

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Know Your Librarian: A Romance Author's Guide To The Local Library

By Rosanna Leo

In my travels as a romance author/librarian, I often hear the following lament from fellow authors: "How do I get my books in the library?" In fact, I've even heard bestselling authors complain online because they can't find their works in their local library's catalogue. There is an assumption that once a book is published, it will simply appear in that magical place. The truth is a little less magical. Yes, libraries act as repositories for books of every genre but the people stocking those libraries may not necessarily be familiar with every writer. Sometimes an author needs to network with the friendly local librarian.

Like any business, library acquisitions has a process. The Acquisitions team will have particular vendors/publishers from which they do the majority of their purchases; however my library colleagues also purchase from Amazon if they can't find the item through their vendors. They do not buy books in random fashion. In fact, libraries do a great deal of demographic analysis and they talk to their customers every day. If they understand their customers at the Main Street branch borrow lots of romance novels, they will make sure to keep the Main Street branch stocked with romance novels. That being said, they also operate under strict budgets and purchasing will happen in accordance.

What should you do if you can't find your books in the local library catalogue? My first suggestion is to call the library and ask for the contact information for the Acquisitions Manager. Email her and tell her you are a local author. Libraries love knowing their local authors! In my system, we even put stickers on local author books so they can be identified at a glance. Let the Manager know you have books available (ebook and/or print) and send them the publisher links. That might be all it takes to get your books into the system.

You may wonder if you can donate your print books for the catalogue. I would not suggest doing this without speaking to Acquisitions first. In my system, because we have established vendors, we do not accept donations for the catalogue unless there are special circumstances. In fact, donated books invariably end up on the "Friendly Finds" shelf. Nice, but not quite what we want in this case.

Another tactic for building a rapport with library customers is to get involved with library events. See if your library system has an events or marketing team. Let them know you'd be thrilled to do a reading or to participate in a related event. Librarians enjoy hosting authors. If they choose to host you, you can bet they will likely purchase an array of your books for their catalogue so attendees can check out your work after the event.

See if your library has a "Suggest A Purchase" feature on its website. If it does, you can

suggest purchases that way as well.

Do not send swag unless your librarian has expressed an interest in it. It will likely be discarded. Save it for your reader events.

In short, talk to your local librarian. These professionals provide a wealth of information to their customers on a daily basis. I know from experience they would love nothing more than to be able to tell their patrons Mary Smith is a local author. If the librarian gets to know you, you will be top of mind when she next recommends a romance read.

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Rosanna Leo is a multi-published romance author. Winner of the Reader's Choice 2015 in Paranormal Romance at The Romance Reviews, Rosanna draws on her love of mythology for her books on Greek gods, selkies and shape shifters. From Toronto, Canada, Rosanna occupies a house in the suburbs with her long-suffering husband, their two hungry sons and a tabby cat named Sweetie. When not writing, she can be found haunting dusty library stacks or planning her next star-crossed love affair. A library employee by day, she is honored to be a member of the league of naughty librarians who also happen to write romance. www.rosannaleoauthor.wordpress.com.

SOCIAL MEDIA

The updated membership roster is available in the YahooGroups file section. It should be on the website shortly. Those who have notified us of their social media links…that information is included. We did not include phone numbers or addresses. If you'd like to contact a member, please use the provided email address.

If you'd like your information to be included, please use the Social Media update form in the members only section of our website. Please remember that information on our roster is for members only use and is a violation of chapter bylaws to be sold or used for profit.

http://ntrwagreatexpectations.blogspot.com/p/ntrwa-social-media-form.html

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MINUTES from JULY

CALL TO ORDER:

A regular meeting for the North Texas Romance Writers of America (NTRWA) was held on Saturday, July 16, 2016 at the La Hacienda Restaurant in Colleyville, Texas.

Meeting called to order at 10:33.
There were less than 10 members in attendance. The speaker was Trish Dolan (Opening the third eye to creativity). The meeting adjourned at 11:15.
Next Business Meeting: 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, August 20, 2016 at La Hacienda.
Submitted electronically by [s] Michelle Welsh.

#booties

A Note from the Newsletter Editor:

Please note photos included in the newsletter are provided by the members. Any photos you'd like to include can be sent to newsletter@ntrwa.org. It is at the discretion of the newsletter editor as to which photos will be included in the newsletter. Thank you.

Email questions, comments, or articles to newsletter@ntrwa.org.

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