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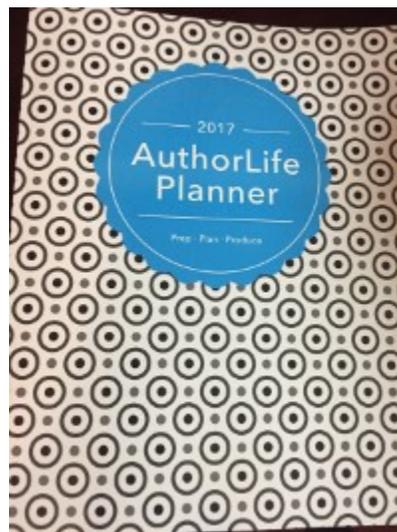
January 2017 Heart to Heart Newsletter

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 Chapter 33, Region 5
 January 2017
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Entry deadline is Feb. 14th.
 Entry fee \$25



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A message from the President, Kim Miller

As we move into a new year, I always like to look back. Did I get anything accomplished in the previous year? Did I meet my writing goals? My editing goals?

I know this year, in 2016, I didn't. 2016 was a year of transitions for me. I transitioned from a company where I'd worked for over twelve and a half years, doing a job I was so good at I could've done it blindfolded, to a completely new career where

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Angi Morgan**Great Expectations**
Lisa Fenley

So, no, I didn't get much writing done in 2016.

Matter of fact, I knew at the beginning of 2016 I wouldn't. So, I went into 2016 without adding any additional stress or guilt to my plate. I had enough things to worry and angst over. I refused to let my writing, my joy, be one of them.

But now, I'm looking forward to 2017 and all of the wonderful things I'd like to accomplish this year. I bought a wonderful book, AuthorLife Planner, written by Bria Quinlan, with some exercises to get me thinking about where I want to be this time next year. The thinking, the planning, the anticipation - all of these things are building my creative juices again, and I'm looking forward to getting busy in 2017.

So, if you didn't get as much done in 2016 as you wanted - shake it off. It's 2017 now. A whole new year with limitless possibilities. Plan your strategy, along with me, and let's get where we want to go.

THE PERILS OF BEING PUBLISHED

The Truth About The Money
by Gerry Bartlett

There it was on the front page of the lifestyle section of the Houston Chronicle—Rita Clay Estrada, one of the founding mothers of RWA and the woman we named the prestigious award for published works after, is driving an Uber at age 74 to supplement her income. Oh, she put a little spin

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Hospitality

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and share their stories. But she also freely admitted that she's living off the royalties stashed away from the good years she had with Harlequin. Those were quite a while ago. Rita hasn't written much lately, though she's working on a book now. That's one thing I've always loved about our profession—we can sit at the computer and create as long as our mind is good, our muse is with us and we feel like we have a story to tell.

But that's not what this article is about. The truth is that she's frankly admitting the money doesn't stream in forever. We all know that Harlequin, bless them, puts your book out there for a month and then it's gone. Other publishers may keep books on the shelves longer but maybe not. Now that the Internet is here (It wasn't when Rita helped start RWA.), books can go on forever. We hope that means they're earning money forever too. Whether we get any of it is dicey. If you are self-publishing you've probably heard those stories about the six-figure years. I even heard about a six-figure month in San Diego this summer. Wow, wouldn't that be wonderful? But I know for a fact that those earners are as rare as a white tiger in the streets of Houston. Yes, when they roar we listen and are amazed. But, remember, they are rare.

We have one such special being in our chapter. She came and shared her strategies. The first one included writing a lot. And picking a niche market that suits her talents. You know who you are, Cheryl Bolen. I started out in my own niche, paranormal romance. Unfortunately that hot market cooled off. People ask me if I ever could have lived off my income from my long-running and

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advances. Wrote two books a year. But I had a family and we liked, I don't know, new cars, eating out and sending our son to a college without having him take out student loans. So the answer is "No, we couldn't have lived off my writing income." And just when I felt comfortable with my publisher and editor and happy with that seemingly endless stream of contracts and money flowing in? It stopped. The series and paranormal weren't getting the sales the publisher liked. Nothing personal. It is a business. So no more vampire books. And that was that.

I had to reinvent myself. Which I'm doing. But the industry as a whole is cutting back and those big advances are just as rare as that white tiger. One friend saw her publisher go bankrupt, owing her hundreds of thousands of dollars because she was a New York Times bestseller. She still has never received dime one from her foreign sales or audio books, though she can see that they are available. Letters to those publishers are ignored. A literary attorney may not be worth the money she'd have to fork out and she doesn't have it now anyway. Boy, is this getting depressing.

Anyway, the fact is that we can all run out and self-publish now. How great to get all those royalties to ourselves. And we might get back old titles to add to our list. Of course my vampire books, no matter how weak the market, still belong to my publisher and aren't coming back to me. But I continued the series on my own and it still sells. But that means I'm in the publishing business. It takes time and energy that takes away from writing and the other things I like to do. And I'm no spring chicken myself. Do I get to retire? Only if I want to

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me and quit buying my books. The four books I've self-published so far bring in a steady little income but the emphasis is on little. If I want more money, I need to write more.

In the meantime I switched genres and already see that many of my fans won't follow me there. They want vampires. Straight contemporary isn't woo woo enough for them. And I get it. I miss those hot guys with fangs too. So I have to write two books at a time, one for my new fans and one for the old. Gee, chasing the dollar is depressing. Worrying about money is even worse. Rita was smart if she socked away money when it was flowing in. I did the same. I also held on to my day job, teaching, until I worked long enough to have a pension. I can live on that if I have to and I'm a widow now so I'm my sole support. I started an antiques business too, putting my shopping addiction to work for me.

Rely on the writing income? I'd have to be crazy. It's so driven by tastes and trends that you seriously can never predict whether you're going to be hot or not. So Uber? Hey, I have a clean driving record, a new car and smiling grandmas get good tips. Maybe Rita is on to something.

Gerry Bartlett is the best-selling author of the Real Vampires series and is also about to start the Texas Heat series for Kensington's Lyrical Shine imprint. Texas Heat, the first in the series, is a December 6, 2016 release. Real Vampires and the Viking is available now.

~*~*~

The preceding article first appeared in the

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newsletter of Houston Bay Area RWA. Permission granted to reprint or forward to sister RWA chapters with proper credit to author and chapter.

Thanks,

Leslie Marshman
Editor, In Print!

(REAL) SCRIVENER FOR iPad

by Sandra K. Moore

Good news, Scrivener fans!

Literature and Latte released their Scrivener for iPad (\$19.99) application (finally!) in July 2016, and it's looking pretty good so far.

I recently spent roughly a month traveling for one reason or another, and had plenty of opportunity to try out Scrivener for iPad along the way. Comparing Scrivener to its third-party cousin Scrivo Pro (\$9.99, and which I reviewed in the June 2016 issue of Houston Bay Area RWA's In Print!) turned out to be an interesting exercise.

After using both apps for a couple of months, I have to say that for me, it's a toss-up between the two – the choice really depends on what you want to do. Both have their strengths and weaknesses, though I'd say Scrivener for iPad probably needs another few months of bug fixing to be robust enough that I'd heartily recommend it.

Here's the skinny for busy readers:

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Scrivener for iOS – Good for writers who:

- “ Are comfortable with the desktop Scrivener application.
- “ Are more concerned with writing your story than the technology.
- “ Can tolerate a handful of limitations that are more nuisances than anything else (with the exception of outputting to Word or PDF, which has major flaws).

Scrivo Pro – Good for writers who:

- “ Prefer cloud storage devices for your projects other than Dropbox (like iCloud, Google Drive, or Box).
- “ Are comfortable with minor interface differences between tablet and desktop.
- “ Find additional features that aren’t strictly pertinent to the actual writing useful (like read-aloud and reading comprehension gauges).

I can also say that I see updates to Scrivo Pro come across the App Store on a monthly basis – and that’s a good thing. Updates on mobile apps these days are not always a symptom of problems so much as an indication that software companies often launch a bare bones product and then add features as users request them. Of course, bug fixes and performance improvements are also appreciated!

If you’re technologically-oriented or just plain curious, keep reading...

The Essentials

Scrivener brought its best features to the iPad,

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The cork board with its drag'n'drop rearranging of index cards.

Synopsis notes.

Labels and statuses.

Compiling and output of projects (with limitations).

In order for Scrivener for iOS to work, of course, it needed to be able to sync projects between iOS and the desktop application, and that's where I found minor gotchas. More on those in The Limitations below.

But the showstopper for me was the fact that I couldn't figure out how to consistently get the Word documents I needed out of Scrivener for iOS.

The Goodies

I appreciated a handful of design choices made by Literature and Latte's team:

The mobile app is laid out very similarly to the desktop version, so I felt right at home.

The synopsis is shown in a pane on the same screen as its document text, so I could see both my synopsis and the chapter side-by-side. In Scrivo Pro, the synopsis and document text are on different screens, so I'd have to toggle back and forth.

If Scrivener for iOS detects a file change when it launches, it prompts me to sync right away. Scrivo Pro doesn't actively look for changed files, so I have to remember to sync the project myself.

The Limitations

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Some gotchas I found in Scrivener for iOS had to do with syncing, while the biggest is with trying to output a file.

Fonts. If you use Scrivener for Windows and Scrivener for iOS and prefer to work in a font other than one of the eight or so cross-platform fonts (Arial, Times New Roman, etc.), the synced files may appear in the desktop application in a different font than you expect. This is a nuisance more than anything. Literature and Latte addresses the font issue at length.

Unexpected tabs. For whatever reason (also known as a bug), syncing sometimes produces extraneous tabs in the synced documents. As I don't have time to engage in full-fledged Quality Control and figure out all the circumstances that cause this little hiccup, I'll just say that it happens periodically. The good news is that it doesn't seem to affect compiling the output.

Scary sync message. Setting up Scrivener for iOS for use with Dropbox involves moving project files around (addressed below in Making it Work), and the first sync of a project is seamless.

But the second sync message – after I'd plotted an entire novella in iOS and wanted to get it back into the desktop version – suggested that syncing would overwrite all my work on iOS. I hastily canceled out of the sync process and copied out my synopsis notes, one-by-one, into a Word document in the event the sync actually did what it told me it was going to do: Destroy my plotting work on iOS.

Interestingly, when I tapped the Sync button, the sync didn't do what it said it would do, but instead synced properly. Yay?

As I used the app more, I grew to trust its sync in

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post-edit sync was a heart-stopper.

Mysterious and unusable compiles. The first time I attempted to output my in-progress project, Evelyn (my third Promise House novella), to Microsoft Word, I got Caroline (my first Promise House novella) instead. Granted, all my novellas live in the same project, but in different folders, and selecting one of those folders to output shouldn't be rocket science. This was the beginning of my confusion around how to get the Word documents I want out of Scrivener for iOS, and after playing around with it for a few hours and looking in vain online for answers, I'm still confused.

The sync issues can be easily worked around and will likely be addressed in bug fixes over time.

The compilation issue, however, looks like a fundamental design flaw. No matter what I have showing in the navigation pane or in the document view, I don't get the output I expect. Now, I'm a user experience designer (meaning that I make my living figuring out how to make software easier for humans to use), and I will quite happily tinker with software for long hours, so my inability to sort this out suggests a deeper problem with the app.

Making it Work

There are already quite a number of videos out on the internet to coach you through setup, so I'll just run through a couple of heads-up items here.

Setting up Scrivener projects to sync – Scrivener for iOS requires that project files intended for sharing with its mobile app be moved to an Apps > Scrivener folder on Dropbox. But this can only be

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iPad and pointed at Dropbox. At that point, Scrivener will create its special folder in Dropbox and you can move files accordingly.

You can also use iTunes to move projects onto the iPad, but as I avoid iTunes like the plague, this didn't really work for me though I gave it the ole college try.

Wrapping it Up

Overall, I'd say that if your intent is to ditch the laptop or desktop and go fully mobile, Scrivener for iOS isn't ready for prime time. My inability to get an expected Word document out of the iOS version pretty much guarantees I'll be hanging onto my laptop for the foreseeable future.

On the other hand, if you just want to add to your WIP using your tablet while traveling, it's a pretty good option for keeping that word count climbing.

Sandra K. Moore is one-quarter of the Write or Consequences blog contributors, who also include Terri Rich, Lorinda Peake, and Dawn Temple. A former Silhouette Bombshell author, Sandra's writing from her softer side for the self-published Promise House series about four young women finding their way through the social expectations and turmoil of 1950's Houston. Evelyn, the third novella in the series, is scheduled for release in late October 2016.

~*~*~

The preceding article first appeared in the September 2016 issue of In Print!, the monthly newsletter of Houston Bay Area RWA. Permission

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chapters with proper credit to author and chapter.

Thanks,

Leslie Marshman
Editor, In Print!



DECEMBER 2016 MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER:

A regular meeting for the North Texas Romance Writers of America (NTRWA) was held on Saturday, December 10, 2016 at the La Hacienda Restaurant in Colleyville, Texas. The President and the Secretary were present. The meeting was called to order at 11:49 a.m. The minutes for the October 15, 2016 meeting were approved.

OFFICER REPORTS:

President Suzan Butler reported:

- Yellow Rose Recipient: Lisa Fenley
- The following awards / drawings will be held in January:
 - Most Written
 - Most Edited

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- Free Golden Heart Entry
- 2016 Updated By-laws accepted by RWA

President-Elect Kim Miller presented:

- If you are interested in a Committee Chair position (appointed positions), please see Kim Miller.
- Thank you gift presented to Suzan Butler for her service in fulfilling her role as our 2016 President.
- Online vote election results—new board. The positions requiring a membership vote:
 - President – Kim Miller
 - President-Elect – Audra Lewandowski
 - Secretary – Robin Nelson
 - Treasurer – Cindy Dees
 - Program Director – Amanda McMurrey
 - Communications Director – Jen FitzGerald
 - Membership Chairperson – Angi Morgan
 - Chapter Contests Chairperson – Lisa Fenley

Secretary Lisa Fenley reported:

- The October 15, 2016 meeting minutes were approved and filed for audit.

Treasurer Jen FitzGerald reported:

- The Treasurer's report was presented and filed for audit.

Program Director Amanda McMurrey was not present. Kim Miller reported:

- Today's Meeting:
 - Holiday Party!

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planned for North Texas members. It will be held at the Grapevine Convention facility.

Website Director Jen FitzGerald reported:

- If you want to post information to the website, please contact Jen FitzGerald at website@ntrwa.org.

COMMITTEE COORDINATOR REPORTS:

Membership Director Angi Morgan reported:

- No report.

Communications Director Audra Lewandowski reported:

- Send information / articles / photos for inclusion in the newsletter to newsletter@ntrwa.org by December 28, 2016.
- Social Media—please complete the profile information for your social media formats to share with the chapter.
- Reminded chapter of Facebook changes.

PAN Liaison Chrissy Szarek reported

- Pencils for book releases / sales to members present distributed for the end of the year.
- Books for December:
 - Kym Roberts: *Mistletoe and Lace* and *Fatal Fiction*
 - Jerrie Alexander: *Til the Dead Speak* and *Hell of a Holiday*
 - Gina Nelson: *Cinco de Murder*
- RWA pins for milestones (starting at 5 books published.) Pins are \$10 apiece. Order through RWA. You must order your pins

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PRO Liaison Clover Autrey reported:

- If you are not a PRO member, please see Clover for application information. PRO pins must be purchased from RWA.
- PRO membership allows you on the NT PRO loop, where training and information are provided to our chapter PRO members.

Two Step Conference Amanda McMurrey reported.

- No report.

Great Expectations: Lisa Fenley reported:

- Currently have ten category coordinators:
 - Suzan Butler
 - Mary Beth Lee
 - Audra Lewandowski
 - Amanda McMurrey
 - Kim Miller
 - Susan Miller
 - Robin Nelson
 - Chrissy Szarek
 - Susan Welch
 - Carolyn Rae Williamson
- Training offered this fall—4 members trained on 12/4/16
- Early bird through December 18th. Last day for entry submittal is January 4, 2017.
- 20 Entries to date.

Carolyn Contest Jen FitzGerald reported:

- We need volunteers to help with the 2017 contest.
- 30 Entries to date.

Hospitality Faith Stencil was not present. Jen

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- No report.

Writing Incentives Chrissy Szarek reported:

- Quarterly Most Written: Angi Morgan
- Quarterly Most Edited: Lisa Fenley
- Top 3 Edited Pages: Kym Roberts-460; Carolyn Williamson-412; Chrissy Szarek-387
- Top 3 Written Pages: 308-Susan Miller; 160-Kym Roberts; 108-Robin Nelson

Bylaws Angi Morgan reported.

- No report.

Spotlights Jen FitzGerald reported:

- Jen FitzGerald accepted this position for 2017.

Unfinished Business:

- No unfinished business to report.

New Business:

- No new business to report.

Next Business Meeting: 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, January 21, 2017 at La Hacienda.

The meeting adjourned at 12:11 p.m.

Submitted electronically by [s] Lisa Fenley.

Date Approved: _____

Date Corrected: _____

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2016's Yellow Rose Award recipient Lisa Fenley.
Award presented by Suzan Butler.

The Carolyn Contest--HELP WANTED

REMINDER DIVA—send (pre-written) reminders to judges once they've had a book for three weeks (Jan 14 to Apr 20)

VERIFICATION MISTRESS—compare the EmailMeForm data to the contest spreadsheet and a) verify the entered scores are correct and b) verify that the returning judge was marked ready to

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original scoresheets (Jan 14 to Apr 30)

BLOG MOMMA—post updates as needed (at least weekly) to the contest blog (Nov 14 to May 14)

If you want to help with any of these tasks, please email Jen at carolyn.award@ntrwa.org

Join us January 21st for...

Kay Honeyman on Secrets

Everyone has secrets. It is part of what makes us human. And those secrets are powerful motivators. Our stories (real or imagined) often form out of those secrets. Secrets can be devastating or inspiring. They can show the best and worst in each of us. They reveal our frailties and our strengths. And they can drive a story or a scene. Through discussion and activities we will explore the role secrets play in stories, and dig for the secrets our characters try to hide. Writers will come away with some fresh tension for their stories and micro-tension for their scenes.

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