

Heart to Heart

ROMANCE WRITERS
OF NEW ZEALAND

ISSN: 1178-3946

October 2018

The Truth About Translations

Kris Pearson



That's a good click-bait title, isn't it?

Some of you know I've been giving various translations a go. Has it been worth it as an indie author? Only in part. Several years ago, when the money was rolling in nicely, I engaged a professional

Spanish translator to take care of four of my books. I could have bought a small new car for the same money. Although I eventually covered the translation cost with sales, and now have a very nice friend in Spain, I can't recommend it as a money-making concern. I found it difficult to promote the books adequately, although maybe if I'd gotten into Spanish Facebook ads that might have helped. The books are still selling every month, and I get requests from Spanish readers to have others translated, but no. It's too expensive now.

The next venture was in Korea. One of my friends had been approached by a publisher there because they wanted English books to translate. I asked if they'd like some of mine, too. I have eleven signed contracts, now all out of date. The agent mysteriously disappeared, and when I queried – lo and behold, a friendly new agent – but still no action. For all I know, the whole eleven could be doing a roaring trade in Korea under someone else's name. However, it cost me nothing and was definitely exciting. I checked with my friend before writing this. She says she's made a few dollars, but nothing impressive.

So then I tried Babelcube. They translate books into a variety of (mostly European) languages and the system works like this: You provide the blurb, manuscript and cover, they show the blurb to their translators, who vary in quality enormously, and it's up to you to choose one if anyone volunteers. You get ten pages of their work to

check, and you okay the progress on that. Unless you speak the language, that's hard, although you might have a foreign friend who can give their opinion. I speak enough Italian to be happy with the two books I have out there in that beautiful language, and I also have two out in Portuguese now. I've turned down a German girl.

There's been more contact with some translators than others, and my lady in Brazil is a real hoot. The Babelcube model splits the sales income in the translator's favour up to a certain point, and after that the author makes more. This author has never made anything approaching a hundred bucks a month, so I presume the translators haven't made much either. It's up to them to help with promotion so they get some payment for their work.

By far the most interesting has been China. There's a company there called Fiberead and they also split royalties between translators, the author, and the company. The first thing they wanted from me was milder love scenes – or maybe none at all. I told them I wasn't interested in that, but then the challenge of giving it a go took over. I de-sexed five. Off we went. There's been A LOT of contact between their translators and me.



新西蘭現代愛情小說家系列作品，帶你衝破世俗束縛，還...

心之港灣系列4：觸不到的戀人

我要評分

出版日期：2018/04/25

出版：Fiberead 追蹤出版者新書快訊

作者：克麗絲·皮爾森

語言：繁體中文(台灣)

頁數：112

產品類型：電子書

檔案格式：EPUB (適合手機)

關鍵字：愛情/當代/愛情/當代

如何透過 App 閱讀?

Because it's China, you get two translators per book – I gather everyone checks on everyone in China! They seem to be language students for the most part, and wonderfully polite. Basically I've been helping with their language studies. I've been surprised to find how much Kiwi slang is in my books – because those are the parts they've queried the most. Some of their interpretations have been gorgeous, but they ask if they're unsure so I presume all is good.

Three of the books are now on sale in Taiwan, and my project manager tells me they have to be passed by the official State Censor before they can go on sale on the mainland. This may never happen! I've enjoyed her comments – I think quite deliberately miss-spelled if they're about the censor so they can't be traced. In fact I've enjoyed the whole process – no cost except my time.



Will they ever be released in mainland China? Well, they're translating the last two of my five so someone thinks so. Have I made any money? No. Their system is to put the books up free to start with so they get some reviews. We shall see.

There's been one interesting side-effect of this process – I released the five sweeter versions in English, with slightly different titles and under the author name of Kerri Peach (nice and sweet, I thought.) I've made one free, and with this as the only promotion they're ticking over better than I expected. Who knew? Maybe I should have been a sweet writer all the time!



[Kris Pearson's](#) working life has revolved around writing advertising. After stints at Hawkes Bay and Wellington radio stations she moved to TV, several advertising agencies, and then spent many happy years as a retail ad manager. Totally hooked on fabrics, she followed this by going into business with her husband as a curtain installer. (Obvious career progression!)

It was finally time to write fiction. In twenty years she hasn't fallen off her ladder once through drifting off into romantic dreams. All the places she's visited and people she's met on décor jobs have been wonderful inspiration for her settings and characters. She once stole a whole spectacular house, although politely 'built' some on to disguise it. She has indie-published fifteen contemporary romances, some translations, and is now heading toward mysteries.

Using a Scandal from History to Inspire a Sub-plot

Renée Dahlia



For me, the plot of romance is the romantic arc between the two main characters, with any other plots being secondary to the romance plot. In my new release, The Heart of a Bluestocking, the characters are set the puzzle of unravelling a horse racing mystery which threatens the

heroine's family. I based this on a real scandal from 1898, the Trodmore Hunt Scam, but shifted it to 1888 to suit my story (as the third in the series).

In the weeks leading up to the August bank holiday, the Clerk of the Course at Trodmore Hunt Club wrote to the Sportsman over a two week period, firstly informing them on the meeting, following it up with early nominations, and later with the printed racecards. The quality of these communications was so precise that the newspapers didn't question their validity and published the race meeting details. The Sportsman couldn't commit a journalist to cover the raceday, as they were busy with the nearby Newton Abbot meeting but noted that if one of the stewards would be obliged to send the result, that would be appreciated. Enter Mr Martin. He agreed to cover the event for the Sportsman for the fee of one guinea, with full results wired at the end of the meeting. As this day was one of the few public holidays in 1898, it was a huge day for the races, and very busy with bookies. The bookies did a roaring trade on Trodmore, bigger than expected for a minor meeting but not completely unexpected for a holiday.

The evening papers published the results from the major meetings held that day but didn't publish the Trodmore results until the next day. As a side note, the telegraph first came into use in 1837, and by 1845, the Electric Telegraph Company had formed and the technology was about to take off. Australia became connected to the world in October 1872, and the telegraph across the Pacific was finally completed in 1902 to encircle the whole world. Therefore, by 1898, the idea that race results could be sent quickly to newspapers was old news!

Mr Martin wrote an effusive letter about the success of the meeting, and the Trodmore results were published in the Sportsman. The other major racing paper, The Sporting Life, didn't print the results and bookies asked them to confirm the odds, refusing to pay out until such time. Mr Martin contacted The Sporting Life, as the journalist who had represented the Sportsman at the meeting and agreed to write an article for The Sporting Life. However, he couldn't send it through until the following afternoon. With the bookies furiously wanting to confirm the results, The Sporting Life decided to copy the results from the Sportsman to save time. The printer, perhaps tired or hungover, erroneously made a typo, putting Reaper as having won at 5/2 when the Sportsman had printed his price at 5/1. Now the bookies were really paying attention – which newspaper was right? And where was Trodmore anyway?

The Sportsman's editor telegraphed Mr Martin and received no response. The addresses on the original letters were traced, and no place called Trodmore existed. The matter was handed over to police, and the Sportsman printed a retraction notice. The scam pulled thousands of pounds from bookies, and the perpetrator was never caught. The person posing as Mr Martin will forever be a mystery, although one theory is that he was a journalist with a strong racing background as the scam required a solid working knowledge of how newspapers accepted racecards from minor meetings.

The Trodmore Hunt Scam was a simple scam, but for characters who have no knowledge of horse racing, it creates tension as they try to understand racing, the scam, and save their families from the consequences. In The Heart of a Bluestocking, there are some alterations to the scam to keep the reader guessing, and most importantly, the characters solve the crime and fall in love.





The Heart of a Bluestocking

Out: 20 October 2018

When an uncommon lawyer meets an unusual doctor, their story must be extraordinary...

September 1888: Dr Claire Carlingford owns the bluestocking label. Her tycoon father encouraged her to study, and with the support of her two best friends, she took it further than anyone could imagine, graduating as a doctor and

running her own medical practice. But it's not enough for her father. He wants her to take over the business, so he can retire. Then his sudden arrest throws the family into chaos and his business into peril.

Mr James Ravi Howick, second son of Lord Dalhinge, wants to use his position as a lawyer to improve conditions for his mother's family in India. When an opportunity arises to work for Carlingford Enterprises, one of the richest companies in the world, Ravi leaps at the chance to open his own legal practise. But his employment becomes personal as he spends more time with Claire and she learns the secret that could destroy his family.

Both Ravi and Claire are used to being outsiders and alone. But as they work together to save their respective families from disaster, it becomes clear that these two misfits might just fit together perfectly.



Renée Dahlia is an unabashed romance reader who loves feisty women and strong, clever men. Her books reflect this, with a side-note of dark humour. Renée has a science degree in physics. When not distracted by the characters fighting for attention in her brain, she works in the horse racing industry doing data analysis. She writes for two racing publications, churning out feature articles, interviews and advertorials. When she isn't reading or writing, Renée wrangles a husband, four children, and volunteers on the local cricket club committee.



Putting the Science in Fiction: A New Resource for Writers

Judy L Mohr



Many writers will happily agree that getting the little details right help to make a manuscript great. Sometimes, we'll spend hours upon hours doing research as a consequence. Weeding out the falsehoods is not easy, and the temptation to resort to the idea of "everyone

knows that" is strong. However, what if the little details that "everyone knows" is actually wrong?

When it comes to science, writers have been known to pull on what others have made up to cover the fact that they don't know the details, perpetuating misconceptions. Let's face it, science can be shrouded in technobabble; sometimes, you need a subject-matter expert to remove the mystery of the field, helping you understand it.

For the past few years, Dan Koboldt has coordinated a blog series (dankoboldt.com/science-in-scifi/), where subject-matter experts explain the parts of science that fiction often gets wrong. This series has now been turned into a resource book for writers to be released by Writer's Digest on October 16th, 2018.

Putting the Science in Fiction is the first of its kind, pulling on articles from forty different contributors, all experts within their own fields of science. Among the articles, you will find:

- How to Write Convincing Death Scenes, by science report Bianca Norgrady
- A Whirlwind Tour of the Human Genome, by geneticist Dan Koboldt
- Writing Mental Health, by psychiatric nurse practitioner Kathleen S. Allen
- How the Ocean Will Kill You, by marine biologist Danna Staaf
- Realistic Space Flight, with pilot and aviation journalist Sylvia Spruck Wrigley
- The Weapons of Star Wars, by engineer Judy L Mohr (yours truly)
- ... and many more.





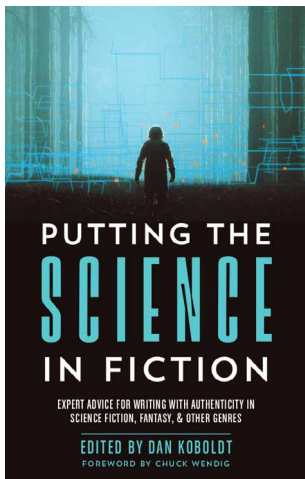
If doesn't matter what genre you're writing, this resource will likely have something to help you capture the essence of realism in your story. You will even encounter some much needed advice on how to find subject-matter experts and how to contact them.

'It doesn't matter what genre you're writing, this resource will likely have something to help you capture the essence of realism in your story.'

Although I'm a contributor to this book myself, I'm looking forward to getting my hands on this book. I take an odd sense of satisfaction in understanding what misconceptions people might have about various fields of science. No doubt, there will be a few misconceptions that I hold myself awaiting to be debunked.

Putting the Science in Fiction is available from a wide range of retailers, including Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Book Depository and the Writer's Digest Shop. You can find more information about this book, including sample pages, at <https://pages.e2ma.net/pages/1887808/9576>

Here's hoping that this resource will help you get a few of the little details right within your own stories.



[Judy L. Mohr](#), one of the many contributors to this book, is a writer of thrillers, fantasy, science fiction, and non-fiction. She is also a freelance editor with [Black Wolf Editorial Services](#), working on projects from writers around the world. When she isn't writing, editing, or doing something for writing within the local community, she is hosting her own radio show about science, [ConvoScience](#).

Buy *Putting the Science in Fiction* [here](#)

Sense and Sensitivity Readers

Gillian St. Kevern



I've had multiple conversations during and post conference with writers who telling me about their really cool idea for a lesbian romance, their bisexual heroine, or a gay side character who is demanding his own

book. They're enthusiastic, but at some point in the conversation they hesitate, and admit they're not sure when they'll write this story. They're afraid of getting it wrong.

This conversation makes me very happy. I'm excited for more diverse romance. Increased representation is beneficial for readers, and I believe it is good for the romance genre. But there is always the danger that an author, no matter how good their intentions, might perpetuate harmful and diminishing stereotypes in their work. This is why being afraid is a good thing.

Fear keeps us honest as writers. Every time we commit our truths to the page, fear pops up, telling us that we're making ourselves vulnerable to criticism, that we're deluding ourselves if we think anyone will read this, that we're wasting our time. We've grappled with fear, learned when to suppress it, when to ignore it. I've also learned, through the process of making some very unfortunate mistakes, that there are times when you should listen to it.

'Should you let fear stop you from writing? I say no. Instead, unpack that fear.'

Should you let fear stop you from writing? I say no. Instead, unpack that fear. What is causing it? When we're afraid, it often signals that we're on the brink of something new and exciting. All the best decisions I've made—moving to Japan aged 21, leaving my job of 11 years to come back to New Zealand, shaving my hair as part of Shave for a Cause—I was terrified. But each time I pushed myself, I grew. I now see fear as a sign that I should seriously consider doing whatever it is that scares me because that is where growth and knowledge lie.



◀◀
When I encounter a fear based in writing, it takes me a while to get to the root cause but it usually comes down to a lack of knowledge and the fear of getting it wrong. This fear is well founded when it comes to depicting characters from minority and marginalized communities. When minority characters appear in media, they're often held up to represent that entire community, so yeah—no pressure!

So what do you do to keep your writing of minority characters as honest as possible? I suggest starting with #own voices. This hashtag has been around for years, but only recently started gaining traction. It's based on the radical notion that authors from minority cultures writing about those cultures should get recognition. #ownvoices stories are authentic and demonstrate that there is not one universal queer experience. They're a really good starting point.

Some people argue that only #ownvoices authors have the right to write about marginalized groups. They point to authors who have written exploitative works, or tried to use representation as a marketing tool. On the other hand, if the majority of us only wrote about what we knew, we would be perpetuating the cycle of erasing minority cultures and groups from mainstream fiction. Of the two, I think erasure is worse. If you are genuinely trying your best to portray your minority characters in a way that is true to them, I think readers will sense that and know that you're not using them to make a quick buck. If you're really worried about profiting off the experiences of marginalised communities, promote the #ownvoices authors you enjoy to your readers, and do your best to support those communities. Educate yourself on being an ally. Listen when people give you feedback. And most importantly, find yourself a sensitivity reader.

'...if the majority of us only wrote about what we knew, we would be perpetuating the cycle of erasing minority cultures and groups from mainstream fiction.'

A sensitivity reader is a member of the community that you are writing about. They're similar to a beta-reader, except they will give you specific feedback on the parts of your work that touch on their community. They may be a professional, they may be a friend. Whatever their experience in publishing, it's a good idea to compensate them for their time. There are two reasons for this. Dominant cultures have a history of using minority cultures for their own ends, and it's really good to avoid this as much as possible. The second reason is that having to continually justify or explain yourself is plain exhausting. People from minority cultures experience this on a daily basis. If you want them to do it in their down time too, it's only polite to offer something in return. You can find sensitivity readers online. Writing in the Margins has a sensitivity reader database: <http://writeinthemargins.org/sensitivity-readers/>

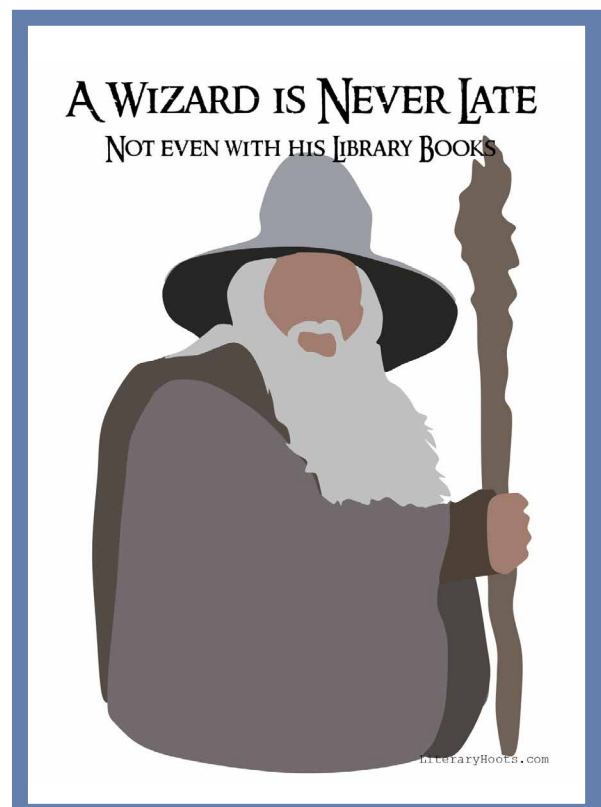
Sensitivity readers are not a get out of criticism free card. They don't excuse you from having to do research, from having to weigh the feedback they give you, or from taking responsibility for your work. A lot of the time, sensitivity readers actually alert you to the blind spots in your own work, identifying places where you need to do more research. More work! That is just what you wanted. But ultimately, while sensitivity readers can't make your portrayals perfect, they can make them better—and that is all we as authors can aim for.

Writing is a continual learning process, as every book pushes us further, and teaches us more about our process and where our weaknesses are. Writing diverse characters is no different. It's a learning process, and the only way to improve is to start writing.



[Gillian St. Kevern](#) is the author of the *Deep Magic* series, the *Thorns and Fangs* series, the *For the Love of Christmas* series, and standalone novels, *The Biggest Scoop* and *The Wing Commander's Curse*. Gillian currently lives in her native New Zealand, but spent eleven years in Japan and has visited over twenty different countries.

As a chronic traveller, Gillian is more interested in journeys than endings, with characters that grow and change to achieve their happy ending. She's not afraid to let her characters make mistakes or take the story in an unexpected direction. Her stories cross genres, time-periods and continents, taking readers along for an unforgettable ride.



How Much Research?

Susan Pace/Allison Lane

When writers of historical fiction get together, one topic that often arises is research. Not just the nuts and bolts of where to find specific information or which source is more reliable, but the general topic of how much research is necessary when writing fiction. This is a subject that will never have a single answer, of course. Writers vary in how much time they can put into research and the importance they attach to getting the details right. Most of us fall somewhere near the center of the spectrum, disagreeing only in how many of the minor details we can bend to our needs before the story becomes unbelievable. But there are people at both ends.

The spectrum ends are easy to define. I know several aspiring writers who devote so much time to research that they never manage to write. If their heroine is poised to enter a room, they can't continue the scene until they have identified every detail of that room – size, shape, décor, furnishings, colors, knick-knacks, etc, etc. They have to know the maker of every piece of furniture, the type of latch on the door, the exact details of the fireplace, and how the pictures are attached to the walls. Without that knowledge, their heroine can't take a single step, let alone open her mouth to speak. And if there are people already in the room, these writers need to know who they are, what they are wearing, every detail of their backstory, why they are present, and on and on. They bury their minds in so much minutia that the story has no chance of getting off the ground.

'I believe that even fiction must conform to the facts that make the chosen setting unique.'

At the other end of the spectrum are the writers who care so little for the setting that they do no more than toss a few period phrases into the book and call it historical. Their stories are so generic that they could take place anywhere in the world – and sometimes at any time in history. Any reader of historical fiction has seen books that are merely contemporary tales in costume. Other books might be quite appropriate for one setting but fish out of water if set someplace else. One of those sits in my warning collection. The setting is supposedly Regency England, but the only actual English detail is a liberal sprinkling of lords and ladies across its pages. The only period details were horses and carriages for transportation. Beyond that, the plot violated everything that makes England unique. This book would have been far better if set in the 1850s

in either the American west or the Australian outback or in the wilds of early medieval Scotland – someplace in which the rule of law had not yet been fully implemented. Since law and order were well established in Regency England, this book's plot was obviously impossible even to readers who know little of the period.

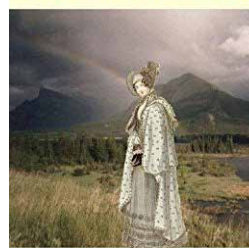
Which leads to my own view of historical research. I believe that even fiction must conform to the facts that make the chosen setting unique. So if my story is set in Regency England, the society in which my characters live will be organized by class with significant differences between the classes. The laws concerning marriage, inheritance, and individual rights or lack thereof must overrule any plot devices. If my characters choose to ignore society's customs, they must recognize and accept the consequences. And dates of well-known historical events cannot be moved, no matter how convenient it would be to do so. On the other hand, if the story demands that I change a bit of minutia, I will do so without angsting over it. In *The Rake's Rainbow*, I needed six inside passengers in a mail coach – real mail coaches barely held four. But I needed six, so the book had six. And I'm far from the only writer who has had a lord serve as the local magistrate even though lords were usually barred from holding that post.

So do enough research to understand your period. As writers, we must be capable of crafting a story that fits its time and place. But don't get bogged down in tiny details. Readers want a gripping story populated by enticing characters. They don't care if dance cards were actually used in 1819 and don't need to know every ingredient in the pasty the hero just bought from a street vendor.



Hi. I'm Allison Lane, an award-winning author who has enjoyed a lifelong affair with books. I was born in Minnesota, earned degrees in mathematics and computer science from the University of Illinois, then embarked on careers designing computer software and teaching classical piano before settling on writing Regency romances. Among my many awards is the Romantic Times Career Achievement Award and finaling for RWA's RITA award. I have a fabulous dog named Midas, who pinch-hits for me whenever I have to supply publicity photos - he looks so much cuter than I do. Besides writing, my favorite activity is traveling, which I indulge in as often as possible. I've lived all over the country, but currently reside in California with my husband.

The Rake's Rainbow



Allison Lane

THE RAKE'S RAINBOW -- Only the most bizarre accident could wed Miss Caroline Cummings, an innocent vicar's daughter, to Thomas Mannering, a notorious rake whose debauchery has expelled him from polite society. But accidents can happen, and do. Now Caroline's happiness lies in the hands of a libertine who is besotted with another man's beautiful wife. How can she defeat such an Incomparable to win Thomas's heart?

Buy *The Rake's Rainbow* on Amazon [here](#)

News from the President

Vivienne Matthews



Greetings one and all. Wow, what a month! I'm still sifting through all the new learnings from our amazing conference. Thanks Kendra and team for putting on a brilliant event with such top-notch speakers.

I know my Chapter are still

on a conference buzz and it sounds like others around the country are too which is brilliant. If you haven't already started saving for Conference 2019 in Christchurch I strongly recommend you do. It's such an awesome opportunity to spend time with others in 'your tribe' and to learn from people in all areas of the business. And the venue looks freaking amazing!

Along with trying to adjust back to day-to-day life after conference, September was my first month as President of this amazing organisation and man, what a learning curve! Like any organisation, there's so much that goes on behind the scenes to ensure things happen as smoothly as possible. There are always hitches or glitches, but we're very fortunate to have a fantastic team who are able to sort them out fairly quickly. This is a hugely busy time of the year with membership renewals so please, if you paid your membership subs around this time last year, keep an eye on your emails (maybe your spam or other folders if your provider automatically sifts your email) for an invoice.

If you don't renew your membership our system will automatically cancel it and we don't want to lose you, even for a brief time. If you're unsure when your membership is due, you can check this out by logging into the membership part of the webpage, clicking on 'My Account' (next to the shopping cart) and clicking 'My Subscription'. This will tell you the next payment date. If your logon for the website doesn't work, and you can't renew your password, this is a good indication you might have missed your renewal date. Please be in touch to double check.

We still have an opening on the Executive for a Publicity Officer. As the name suggests, this role is responsible for all publicity and press releases for RWNZ along with seeking sponsorship and organising fundraising. For a full explanation check out the job description on the website under Membership - AGM Agenda, Remits and Proxy Forms - Executive Committee Position Descriptions, or follow this link [Publicity Officer JD](#) – you'll need to log in to see it. This role is open to anyone no matter your writing / publishing experience and knowledge so please don't let being new to the writing world put you off. If you'd like to

know more about the role please get in touch via email on president@romancewriters.co.nz and we'll answer your questions.

Well that's it for this month. Thanks once again to all those who put in time and effort to make our organisation run as well as it does. Without the chapter convenors, contest co-ordinator, managers and judges, magazine collators, executive and all the other volunteers that make our organisation tick over it wouldn't be the awesome, supportive group it is. Have a fantastic month one and all. See you in November.

Vivienne Matthews

From the Editor:

Gillian St. Kevern



October already. 2018 is speeding past—and my production schedule has gone totally out the window!

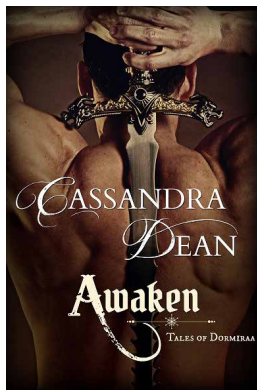
To be fair it was a very ambitious production schedule, and it did not take into account some very important life events, such as the birth of my nephew, or the fact that I'd get a part-time job. I also did not know when making my writing schedule that I'd be taking on the role of Heart to Heart editor! While I don't regret any of these things, I have had to accept I have significantly less writing time than I did last year.

Less writing time has meant much more pressure to produce in what time I have. That hasn't happened. Instead, I've spent a lot of time second guessing myself and worrying about getting things right. It was only recently that I made the belated realisation that I've been stressing myself out, and have taken steps (starting morning meditation again, writing in my journal more often, making time to catch up with writing friends whose enthusiasm makes me more motivated) to take care of my writing health. While this hasn't translated into more words on the page yet, I feel much more optimistic about writing.

October, the start of the last quarter is a really good time to pause and take stock of our plans for the rest of the year. It's also a really good time to check in with yourself, and make sure you're in a good place mentally and emotionally, before the mad dash to the end of the year!

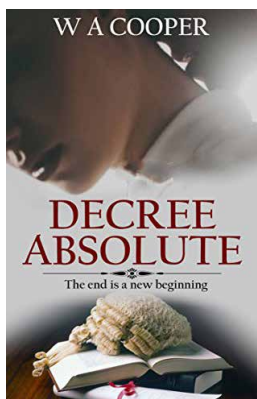
Looking ahead with Heart to Heart, the theme for our November issue is strong women. I think this will be a really great issue! I've decided that our December issue will not have a theme. Instead, feel free to share anything you'd like. There's no Heart to Heart in January, but you'll see us again in February, refreshed and rejuvenated, and with a focus on craft. If you've got an idea for an article or a feature, please get in touch with me at heart2hearteditor@romancewriters.co.nz

Woos and Hoos



Cassandra Dean's first foray into self-publishing is now available for pre-order. Check out AWAKEN, a companion novella to my novel, SLUMBER. Both AWAKEN and SLUMBER are fantasy romances. SLUMBER was based upon the fairy tales 'Sleeping Beauty' and 'The Glass Coffin'.

Buy Awaken on Amazon [here](#)



My debut novel Decree Absolute released 4th September and has done very well, reaching #1 in its genre on Amazon Australia and #3 on Amazon UK. I'm thrilled it has touched a note with readers, gay, straight or otherwise. Thank you to RWNZ and my C2C chapter for all the support I've received since joining. I couldn't have achieved this without you.

Regards, Wendy

Buy Decree Absolute on Amazon [here](#)



Steff Green is The Big Idea's Suffrage Essay Winner! Read her winning submission 'The Damned Mob is Coming for Your Words' online [here](#).

Write With Love

Sarah Williams



G'day, I'm Sarah Williams Romance Author and host of Write with Love, a weekly podcast for writers and readers of love stories. Haven't heard of it? Well then here are four good reasons to tune in!

Indie pioneering superstar Bella Andre chatted to me live from RWNZ conference on Episode 36 and we chatted about her journey as one of the first Indie authors. She has a remarkable story and everyone will get something out of this show!



Episode 37 saw me chatting to Queen of Cowboy romance, Maisey Yates. Another live show, this one filmed at RWA in Sydney. Maisey is a super successful Harlequin author and lovely woman.

Aussie author Christine Wells was the star of Episode 38 and talks about her journey writing novels set during war time. The Juliet Code is out now and is a page turner. Read it [here](#)



Another Harlequin author we love is Annie West who shared her story on Episode 39. You can find her category romances on shelves in supermarkets and department stores. Who doesn't want that!

The big names keep coming in October starting with the one and only Marie Force who has sold over 7 million copies of her books which are both traditionally and indie published!

Check out all the episodes [here](#).

Join in on the fun, including regular competitions at <https://www.facebook.com/WritewithLovePodcast/>

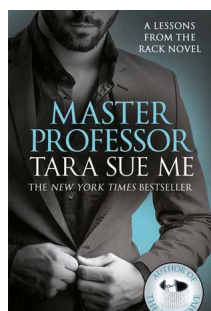
If you are an author who would like a shout out, email me sarah@serenadepublishing.com and become a sponsor on Patreon!

Sarah Williams

The Bookshelf

Book Review: Master Professor by Tara Sue Me

Reviewed by Paula Phillips



Students are begging to be held after class... Andie Lincoln is madly in love with Terrence Knight - her childhood friend-turned-Hollywood's newest golden boy. But he's a Dominant and wants her trained as a submissive before he'll consider a relationship with her. He enrolls her at the RACK Academy with strict instructions for her teachers: do whatever you need to, but don't take her virginity.

Fulton Matthews, the director of incoming students, is enthralled by Andie. Though he questioned her enrollment at first, watching her discover her submissive nature is hotter than his most intense fantasy. Under his control, her sexual awakening brings him to his knees.

Yet they can only go so far. Andie belongs to another and he's bound by a contract that strictly forbids relationships between teacher and student. But when Terrence comes to collect his prize, Fulton discovers it's not easy to let her go...

Buy Master Professor on Amazon [here](#)



REVIEW

I have to admit when I first saw this book, I had my doubts on whether or not I would enjoy it. The main reason being that Tara Sue Me has always been likened to authors like Sylvia Day and Maya Banks. She is one of the original BDSM authors. Quite a few of the original BDSM authors, I have found their work to be slow-paced. However, Master Professor

by Tara Sue Me surprised me, and I loved it. It was an awesome read and in a way not too overly sexualised with the whole BDSM world. The other part which made me enjoy it more was the fact that it was a teacher/student romance and those are one of my favorite tropes to read about. In Master Professor, we meet Andie Lincoln who is dating celebrity Terrence Knight. Andie is a virgin and

discovers that Terrence is a Dom and into the BDSM world. Wanting to be better for him, she is enrolled into a BDSM training academy where she meets her teacher Fulton Matthews aka Master Professor. There is a spark between Fulton and Andie, something that she hasn't felt before and as they are paired up for training sessions and become closer and closer, it is revealed that the pair care for each more than a usual Dominant/Submissive couple should. As the book goes along, we read as Andie is torn between her emotions and feelings for both Terrence and Fulton. What will happen when both guys decide to give Andie their full hearts? Who will Andie choose? Will she go with celebrity Terrence Knight or will she go for the Master Professor of BDSM - Fulton Matthews? This is a Must-read for our Romance Writers/ Readers who don't mind dabbling in the world of Erotica and BDSM.



Paula Phillips lives in Tauranga. She works by day as a Children and Teens Programme Specialist at the local library and by night she is The Phantom Paragrapher – a book review blog. She has also had two short stories published and a third being released at the end of August.

Website: <http://thephantomparagrapher.blogspot.com/>

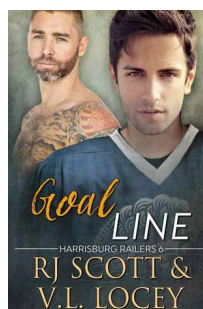
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pparagrapher7/>

Twitter: www.twitter.com/beau_angelnz

Instagram: www.instagram.com/nzgeekchic

Book Review: Goal Line by RJ Scott and VL Locey

Reviewed by Anne Barwell



Fear and sadness mark Bryan's life, can Gatlin show him that you have to trust before you can love?

Gatlin Pearce is creeping up on thirty-eight and is still single. It's not that he wants to be alone, it's just that he's too damn old to be in clubs filled with glittery gay boys who can't even tell him who the Rolling Stones are.

Better to just spend his evenings at

Hard Score Ink - his tattoo and artwork shop - creating masterpieces on human flesh, listening to the Rallers games, and nursing a cold beer.

His solitary life is about to end when Bryan Delaney, the



◀◀
new Rainers backup goalie, shows up at his shop looking for new artwork for his helmet. There's some sort of sad story in those beautiful eyes of Bryan's, and Gatlin finds himself more than a little infatuated with the tender new goalie.

Bryan Delaney leaves home at fifteen to live with a billet family. He just wishes that he could have escaped his alcoholic father and strictly devout mother earlier. Drafted to the Arizona Raptors he finds a new family, and his first love affair even if that relationship is marked with violence. Being traded to the Rainers is a shock to the system but the team isn't like any other he's ever played on and they truly seem to care about him. It's only when he meets artist Gatlin, with their shared love of music and hockey, that he realizes how much help he needs to escape the past.

Buy Goal Line on Amazon [here](#)

REVIEW



This is the first sports or hockey romance I've read, and I loved it. Not knowing anything about the game didn't take away from my enjoyment, and the story has left me wanting to read more in the series, and genre.

I became invested in Gatlin and Bryan almost immediately and

I thought the authors did a great job in showing Aarni's personality, and the way he undermines Bryan all the time. All of the characters in this story came across very vividly, and I loved the side characters too. The story has a great feel of family about it, and I really enjoyed that about the Rainers team, and how they made it very clear from the beginning that Bryan was now one of their own. The prose is very easy to read, and has a nice flow. The first couple of chapters set up the characters, their world, and the supporting cast very well without feeling like it was an info dump. I also thought the authors balanced introducing the side characters for this story with their obvious back story well as it doesn't take over Gatlin and Bryan's story.

There's a huge game changer for the series toward the end of this book that kept me turning pages until the end of the story. I thought it was very well written, with the tension, guilt, and worry coming across very well, yet still kept its focus on Gatlin and Bryan and how it impacted them and their growing relationship.

I'd recommend Goal Line to readers who enjoy hockey romances with realistic, vivid characters, a great sense of family, and a story that keeps you turning pages.

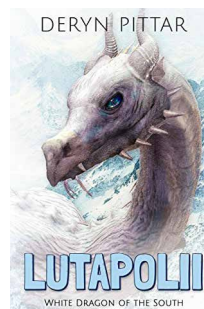


Anne Barwell lives in Wellington, New Zealand. She shares her home with two cats who are convinced that the house is run to suit them; this is an ongoing "discussion," and to date it appears as though the cats may be winning. She works in a library, is an avid reader and watcher of a wide range of genres, and is constantly on the look out for more hours in her day. Anne likes to write in series and even so called one shots seem to breed more plot bunnies. Her writing is like her reading - across a range of genres, although her favourites are fantasy, SF, and historical. Anne also plays piano and violin, so often music plays a part in her stories and/or her characters are musicians.

Website: <http://annebarwell.wordpress.com/>

Book Review: Lutapolii: White Dragon of the South by Deryn Pittar

Reviewed by Gaylene Atkins



Dragons can't swim and they can't catch seals - but Lutapolii can.

Lutapolii, a puny white dragon, escapes to the south to avoid his mother's mocking words. He learns to dive, swim and catch seals but winter creeps up on him and he finds himself stranded. With luck on his side he manages to survive, and returns home in the spring, stronger, taller and very handsome – for a dragon.

After discovering he has been declared dead by the dragon queen, Lutapolii considers this absolves him of all loyalty and decides to establish a flight of his own in the southern seas. All he needs is a handful of lady dragons. Can he steal them from the queen's flight? He's matured over the winter and totally magnificent, so why not take the risk?

With a bit of luck she won't miss them, until it's too late.

Read how Lutapolii sets about enticing four young dragonesses to join him. Follow his conflicts with the dragon queen and his mother. And discover how the need to feed his growing family requires him to take further risks.

AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

I write fantasy, romance, cozy mystery, Young Adult, Sci. Fi. and short stories. I am published in all of these genre. I also dabble in poetry.

I belong to several writing groups and book clubs. I am an avid reader. I enjoy helping emerging authors and read the work of some of my fellow authors, and they read mine. In this way we help each other get our plot lines in order and our characters believable.

I live in New Zealand, which is on the right hand side of Australia, between the equator and the south pole, if you have a map handy. It looks isolated but with the internet we are moments away from anywhere in the world. A collection of islands we have a democratic government and produce a lot of food which we sell around the world. The population is outnumbered seriously by sheep and cows - and I'm still looking for the hobbits.

I hope you enjoy my books as much as I enjoy writing them.

Buy Lutapolii on Amazon [here](#)



REVIEW



What on earth can any reader say? All the other reviewers are saying exactly the same thing as me; I LOVED THIS STORY TOO! And that hardly seems enough! It's visual. It's transporting. It's so imaginative. It made me relive the fantasy fairy-tales told to me as a child or read when I

got older. I'd love to see Lutapolii in his own movie and I truly hope that one day that happens. Lutapolii and his adventures as he grows from being a puny dragon who feels unloved by his mother, becomes a dragon with much integrity, compassion and a deep sense of what is right and what is not. Luta's no push-over. He learns to fish and fight. He learns to love; and along with his lovely ladies (each a beautiful dragoness in her own right) Lutapolii's story is full of challenges, love, jealous bullies, lessons, triumphs and emotional and spiritual growth. This story is full of magic. And there are morals that resonate deeply; sustainability of our rich sea bounty for one, being kind and considerate to others, but fighting to the death if needs be; for the love of family and safety must always comes first.



I've been a member of RWNZ since 1996; it's one of the best organisations I've ever had the pleasure of being associated with and I promote RWNZ and its members whenever I get the chance. Recently a friend suggested H2H could be a possible avenue for some of my book reviews?

I've always loved reading, as well as working with various writing styles and genres. With the advent of Social Media and blogging; I'm adapting quite well and am now sharing some of my book reviews on my WordPress blog.

As we all know 'a review' is one person's opinion; 'if' while reading that review, something resonates and you end up buying and enjoying the book (and leaving another review) then that's a huge bonus for the author; and all authors love favourable reviews because it generates a wider readership, as well as income! Which, let's be honest, we all desire. Greatly!

These days I'm only reviewing books that touch that invisible part of me; be it as simple as giving me full belly laughs, or choking me up with some strong emotions; fear for the characters, anger at their situations, relief at their triumphs over their adversity, 'love at last' and what happens if I shed some tears? Well... of course those make a review guaranteed in my book!

For my own writing endeavours, I'm mostly writing non-fiction—at present. My life's changed dramatically, especially in the last couple of years; OH of over 40+ years and I moved to another town just over a year ago. We absolutely love our new lifestyle in Te Kuiti; no such thing as retirement in our house – I've dubbed it 'reinvention' instead. We're still in the adjustment phase; with the odd pang of grief thrown in (letting go of our old farming lifestyle and mind-set and all that it meant is easier said than done some days, especially for my darling OH). But he's started 'a small digger & man for hire' business, which is going amazingly well. And I've been upskilling by learning a 'hands-on' therapy 'Mind, Body & Bowen', and now in the final stages of completing the registration process. In between studies & clients, I'm reading, writing, stepping up my SM skills, attending C2C chapter meetings, or getting together with other writers/friends for the odd retreat weekend. And I'm so very, very grateful, for each and every day of my life so far!

Website: <https://gayleneatkins.wordpress.com/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/adafarms>

2019 Conference Update

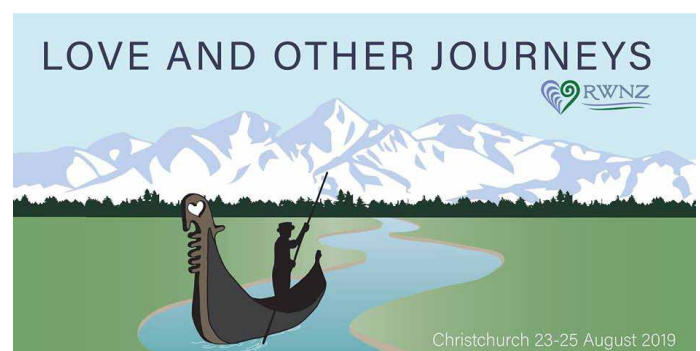
Christchurch, 23-25 August 2019

A short update this month, to keep you all in the loop. Mostly we are deep in the official paperwork - budgets, contracts and working with the new Exec to make sure we are aligned. But the creative muse is also allowed out to play. We are finalising our conference graphic, thinking about website design, discussing workshop ideas with international speakers, and brainstorming themes for the cocktail party and conference dinner.

We will soon be calling for Expressions of Interest for workshop presenters. What might you share on craft excellence, publishing, career management, marketing, promotion, the writer's life, business planning and, of course, insights into romance sub-genres? Thinking caps on please.

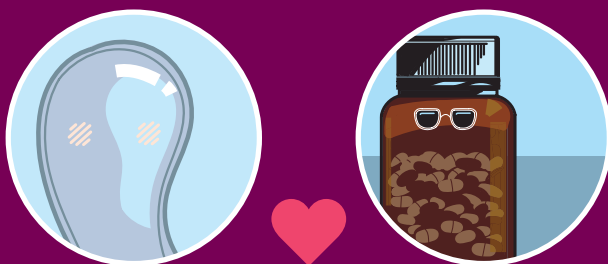
We look forward to receiving your feedback from the 2018 RWNZ Auckland conference. Your input will help us to deliver the best possible experience in t-minus eleven months...

Mel Climo
2019 Conference Convener
On behalf of the fabulous committee



It's a Match!

Mitochondria and MitoQ have liked each other.



MitoQ is a scientific breakthrough. It's the first supplement capable of entering your mitochondria and supporting their health in a meaningful way.

When your mitochondria are healthier they produce more energy, meaning you can be at your best for longer.

Order online at www.mitoq.com

MitoQ

The Welcome Mat

Another red carpet roll-out this month for new members:



Elizabeth Pulford
Belinda Macfie
Linda Shaw
Trish Morey
Sally Astridge
Deborah Bower
Kennece Coombe
Tracey Green
Susan Johnson
Alana Fraser-List
Leonie Wethey
Janet Sayers
Laura Williams
Janine van Dam



Great to have you all with us.

Don't forget to read the information for new members page on our website: <https://www.romancewriters.co.nz/membership/information-new-members/>

Of course, you'll need to login before you can access the members' area, but you'll find information there about how to join the [RWNZ Members-Only Facebook page](#).

Contacts

Vivienne Matthews: president@romancewriters.co.nz

Zoe Sojourner: vicepresident@romancewriters.co.nz

Tania Roberts: treasurer@romancewriters.co.nz

Kate O'Keeffe: secretary@romancewriters.co.nz

???: publicity@romancewriters.co.nz

Kendra Delugar: membership@romancewriters.co.nz

Heart to Heart will be published in the first week of each month except January. The deadline for every issue is the 20th of the month prior (e.g. 20th October for November issue). Please have all articles, news, reports, and advertising to Gillian at heart2hearteditor@romancewriters.co.nz on or before the deadline.

Heart To Heart (H2H) is the official publication of Romance Writers of New Zealand (RWNZ) and is published eleven times a year. No part may be reproduced or used for profit by RWNZ or others without prior written permission from the editor.

The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily the views of RWNZ, its executive, or its editors. While every effort is made to ensure accuracy, no responsibility will be taken by RWNZ or the editors for inaccurate information.

Heart to Heart Contact: Gillian St. Kevern (Editor) heart2hearteditor@romancewriters.co.nz



To join the RWNZ Members-Only Facebook page, click [here](#).

Regional Round-Up Reports

AUCKLAND

Convenor: [Ruth Clough](#)

This month's meeting took place on Saturday 1 September at the Three Kings Tennis Pavilion. Thirty five members attended - making this the biggest Chapter meeting so far this year! It was great to see so many people at the meeting - both new and regular faces. A big welcome to all our new members - I hope you enjoyed the meeting and found it beneficial to you as a writer.

We had two fabulous speakers this month - Nalini Singh and Toni Kenyon - who between them have been writing for more than forty years. They did an informal but densely packed discussion of a wide range of writing topics - finding ideas, the writers's process, editing, writing, schedules and rituals, beta readers, Facebook - the list goes on. It was such a great talk - so much so that we went over time! And I feel that Nalini and Toni had plenty more advice to share. I would like to thank both Nalini and Toni for their fantastic advice and presentation - I know that everyone present got something out of it.

Our next meeting will be held on Saturday 6 October at the Three Kings Tennis Pavilion from 12:30 to 3:00 p.m. Please bring a donation for Chapter, change for the raffles and a plate to share. Next month's speaker is Jackie Ashenden - topic details to come in the Chapter reminder email.

HAWKES BAY

Convenor: [Kendra Delugar](#)

Our September meeting was held at Kendra's, where we caught up with on what we'd all been doing, and talked about the most important things we took away from the 2018 RWNZ Conference. We then spoke about what topics we'd like to cover as a group over the next six months.

We meet on the first Saturday of the month at 1pm, and new members are always welcome. Our next meeting will be held on the 6th of October at Jackie's.

WELLINGTON/KAPITI COAST

Convenor: [Jane Ashurst](#)

Twenty of us met on a cold and windy day in Anna's lovely house in Paekarkariki. We haven't had such a large chapter meeting since Christmas!

We welcomed new members Anne Bennet and Liz, and longterm-but-not-been-to-a-meeting-yet members Janet Elizabeth Henderson and Dane Divine. Also welcomed back Marjan after a long absence :)

Top of the agenda was conference feedback and highlights, including Moira's fabulous impression of Dave Grohl (Foo Fighters). We had some engaging cold reads, and talked about future meetings and conferences.

Next month's meeting will be on 6 October at Tracey & Fred's house in Island Bay (TBC), and we are already looking forward to the 3 November meeting, to be held at Jeanette's house in Levin, when Janet Elizabeth Henderson will do a presentation on writing comedy in romance.

NELSON

Convenor: [LaVerne Clark](#)

This month, the Nelson Chapter was excited to welcome back the lovely Sue MacKay as guest speaker. As an ex-Nelsonian, Sue's career writing medical romances for Harlequin Mills & Boon has been followed closely and with

a great deal of pride from those of our members who were there at the beginning of her journey. Her presentation was informative and inspiring, and full of wonderful tips and insights into the publishing business for all who attended. Thank you so much, Sue! And thanks again for the gorgeous gifts of books we all received. Annika's delicious biscuits went down especially well with cups of tea and really good conversation!

Next month's meeting will be Saturday 6 October at 2:00 p.m. at Nick Smith's Headquarters on Quarantine Road, where the topic will be, What Makes a Good Critique. Members are encouraged to bring a piece of their work for critique. Everyone welcome!

CHRISTCHURCH

Convenor: [Lyssa Randolph](#)

Our meeting at the South Library this month centred on the nature of dialogue. We revisited Damon Suede's teaching from the recent RWNZ conference and discussed his points on creating great dialogue. We tried out the dialogue exercises he included in his workshop, 'Indelible Dialogue: Words that Work', and found them very stimulating for developing characterisation and addressing wounds.

We also shared advice and our experience of writing synopses for the 'Great Beginnings' contest, and some members swapped theirs for critique.

Any new or returning RWNZ members are very welcome to join our local chapter group monthly meetings and our Facebook page.

OTAGO

Convenor: [Samantha Burton](#)

The Otago/Southland chapter had a fun get-together at Rhubarb cafe on Saturday 8 September. Since two of us had attended the RWNZ conference we shared our highlights with the group. We then had a chat about cover design and then Samantha did a short presentation on using Facebook Live videos to connect with your readership - something which has been working well for her over the past months. Our next meeting will hopefully take place in early October, in Cromwell, Central Otago.

COAST TO COAST

Convenor: [Vivienne Matthews](#)

September saw our C2C Chapter meeting in Hamilton. As a little something different, most of the group checked out a special display at the Waikato Museum - [Be Persuaded - A Jane Austen Experience](#) - in the morning then gathered for lunch and a meeting. Meeting attendance is normally down slightly in Sep so the convenor thought her little cottage would be perfect for a small group. Turns out the little cottage was also perfect for a not so small group! We ended up having a mini Grace and Damon workshop as the team fed back on their learnings from RWNZ Conference 2018. It was an amazing impromptu workshop, complete with a worksheet two of our girls had put together for themselves and graciously shared so those who didn't go can now Damon-ize their work. An amazing re-cap of a brilliant Conference.

BLenheim AREA

Contact: [Iona Jones](#)