

DARA NEWS



Copyright in the Age of Artificial Intelligence *Presented by Dr. C. Daniel Miller*

In a world increasingly shaped by AI-driven innovation, how do we navigate the complexities of copyright law? This presentation explores the intersection of artificial intelligence and intellectual property, addressing pressing questions about authorship, ownership, and accountability. Through real-world case studies, legal insights, and ethical perspectives, we will examine the challenges and opportunities AI brings to creative industries. Join us as we discuss strategies for creators, businesses, and policymakers to adapt to this rapidly evolving landscape, fostering a fair and innovative future for all.

(Disclosure per Dr. Miller: This description was created using an AI platform.)

About Dr. Miller: He is the Managing Partner of Integrated Writer Services, LLC, an independent copyright consulting and clearance service. Dan served as president of the Collective of Independent Publishers and Authors (CIPA), formerly known as the Colorado Independent Publishers Association. He is a presenter and conducts workshops on "Copyright in the Age of Artificial Intelligence" for writers, authors, editors, independent publishers, and related support service groups. He also co-authored [Copyright Clearance for Creatives](#), an essential guide about copyright issues for the creative community.

Learn more about Dr. Miller at <https://thecopyrightdetective.com/>

February 2026 Meeting Information

Social Time: 9am. Business Meeting: 9:30 am. Speaker: 10am.

The Zoom link will be emailed to DARA members. Non-members are invited to attend our meetings for a \$5.00 attendance fee. The fee includes the speaker recording. You are required to register for the meeting. Go to [DARA's website](#) and click the button to register.

You'll receive an email with the Zoom link. The link and the recording will be sent to you with the email you register with.

President's Letter - *The Courage to Believe in Love*

February arrives wrapped in hearts, roses, and the cultural shorthand of romance. And every year, I find myself thinking the same thing:

How lucky are we to write in the one genre that insists on hope.

Romance is often described as escapism. As indulgence. As “light” entertainment. But everyone in this community knows the truth: writing love stories requires an extraordinary amount of courage.

Because to write romance—to truly write it—you have to believe in transformation.

You have to believe that people can change.

That wounds can heal.

That trust can be rebuilt.

That love is not naïve, but necessary.

And sometimes, believing in those things is the hardest part.

Many of us come to the page carrying our own doubts. About our talent. Our timelines. Our worthiness to tell these stories at all. We wrestle with imposter syndrome, rejection, burnout, comparison, and the quiet fear that maybe the story we’re trying to tell doesn’t matter as much as we hope it does.

But here’s what I want to remind you this month:

Romance matters because people matter.

Our readers come to us at vulnerable moments—after loss, during change, in seasons of uncertainty. They read on lunch breaks, late at night, in hospital rooms, during sleepless stretches when the world feels unsteady. And what we offer them is not just a happy ending, but reassurance. A promise that connection is possible. That love can be chosen. That joy can be reclaimed.

That promise has power.

February isn’t just about love between characters on the page. It’s also about our relationship with our writing itself.

Do you still love the work?

Not the pressure.

Not the algorithms.

Not the expectations.

But the act of creating. Of imagining two people finding their way to one another against all odds.

If that love feels a little frayed right now, you’re not alone. Creative relationships go through seasons, just like romantic ones. There are moments of passion and momentum—and moments where showing up takes effort and patience.

This month, instead of asking what you *should* be doing as a writer, try asking:



What would help me fall back in love with this?

Maybe it's rereading a favorite romance that made you want to write in the first place. Maybe it's writing a scene purely for joy, with no intention of ever showing it to anyone. Maybe it's giving yourself permission to rest without guilt, trusting that the stories will still be there when you're ready.

And while we're talking about love, let's talk about community.

Romance writers are uniquely generous. We cheer for one another. Share knowledge. Lift each other up when the industry feels overwhelming. Our chapter exists because writing doesn't have to be a solitary act—even though the work itself often is.

This year, my hope is that we continue to nurture that sense of connection. That we ask questions. Offer encouragement. Volunteer when we can. And remember that every voice in this community adds something valuable.

You don't have to be published.

You don't have to be prolific.

You don't have to have it all figured out.

You just have to love stories enough to keep coming back to them.

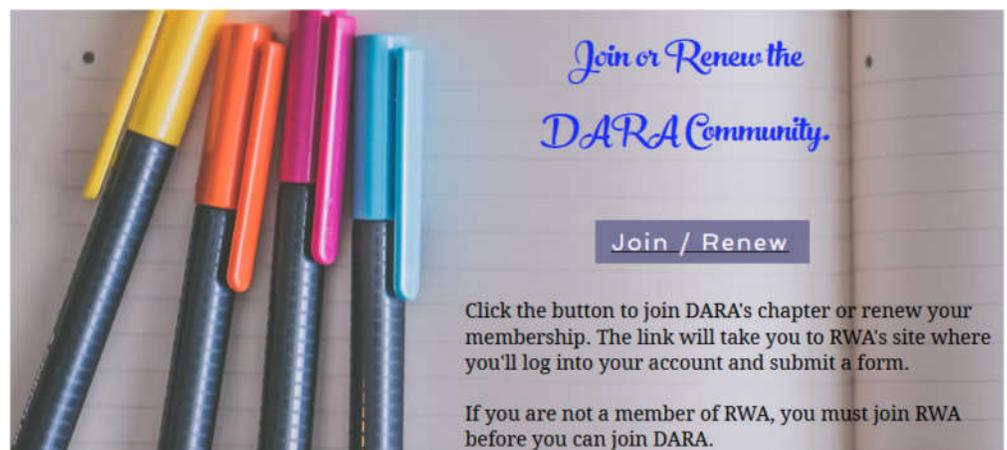
So this February, I invite you to celebrate love in all its forms: the love stories we write, the readers we serve, the community we're building, and the quiet, persistent love we hold for the craft itself.

Because choosing to write romance—again and again—is an act of optimism.

And optimism, especially in uncertain times, is a powerful thing.

—Michelle Miles

Renew Your Chapter Dues on DARA's Website



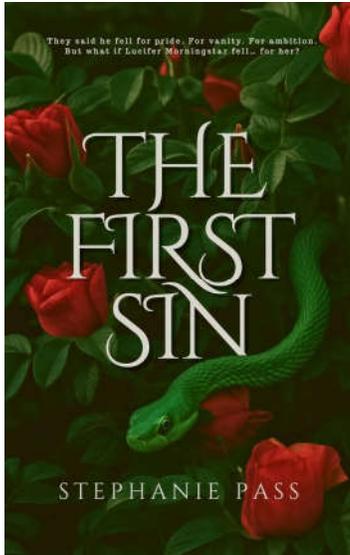
Your Chapter dues are due on the month you joined DARA. It's up to you to remember your renewal date. If you were at the December party, you received a name badge with your expiration date. If you forget the date, you can email the membership chair person, Amanda Reid, at amandareidauthor@gmail.com.

Please go to DARA's website to renew your chapter dues for 2026. Click the **Join/Renew** button. This will take you to RWA's site first, then the chapter will be notified of your renewal. You'll receive an email to pay chapter dues via PayPal. You can also write a check and send it to our post office box.

Website: <https://www.dallasarearomanceauthors.com/join>.

Member's Corner

A place to celebrate success, recognize our members, and welcome new members



Title: The First Sin

Author: Stephanie Pass

Genre: Romantasy

Release Date: February 4, 2026

Available In: Kindle and Paperback

First/Subsequent Sale: Subsequent

Lucifer Morningstar thought he was hunting a prophecy: find the woman, plant the seed, jumpstart the apocalypse, and earn his way out of exile. Banished in mortal skin, he hides as the shadow-owner of The Revel, Las Vegas's most decadent sin palace... until her.

Evie Grace is pink hair, combat boots, and eyeliner sharp enough to cut a lie in half. She came to Vegas to forget. The last thing she needs is the man in the black suit who watches her like he's trying to remember.

He shouldn't touch her. She shouldn't want him. But their attraction ignites, reckless and consuming, and every kiss feels like a song Lucifer has sung a thousand times... and can't remember now.

Angels are circling. Hell is whispering. Lilith is counting the minutes. And memories are surfacing, humming with a truth sharp enough to split the universe.

What if everything was a lie? What if Lucifer wasn't cast out for ambition or vanity... but for loving her? He'll burn Heaven to the ground before he lets it take her again.

The First Sin is a sin-drenched, myth-laced romantasy of forbidden heat and celestial war, where the greatest blasphemy isn't pride.

It's love.

Book Signing Events

February 28th

Denton READiculous Book Palooza in Denton, TX.

DARA Authors: Michelle Miles and Janet Leigh

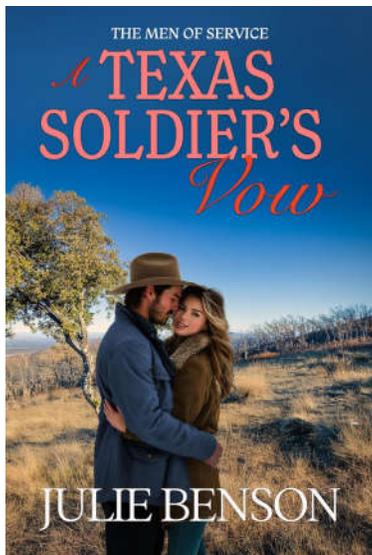
March 6th & 8th

Dreamers & Readers Festival at Gaylord Texan Resort in Grapevine, TX.

DARA Authors: Michelle Miles, Stephanie Pass, and Sharla Wylde

Member's Corner

A place to celebrate success, recognize our members, and welcome new members



Title: A Texas Soldier's Vow
Author: Julie Benson
Genre: Contemporary Romance
Release Date: February 26, 2026
Available In: Kindle
First/Subsequent Sale: Subsequent

A soldier looks for a new beginning. A small-town single mom veterinarian, faces danger. A young daughter plays matchmaker...

Since being discharged following an injury, former soldier **Luke Sawyer** has traveled the west taking photographs. When he's contacted by his pen pal **Samantha Reardon**, he can tell something's wrong. Her clinic's been robbed, terrifying her young daughter. Luke travels to Service, Texas.

After divorcing her cheating husband, Samantha's worked hard to build a new life for her and her daughter. Her practice is thriving, but she's short-handed. Having served as an army medic, Luke offers to help, and camping on the property, he can ensure their safety, but Samantha is wary to trust again.

Soon a white-hot attraction sparks leading to an emotional connection. But Luke fears putting down roots, and Samantha refuses to rely on a man again, especially a younger one. Can a pint-size matchmaking daughter bent on creating a happily ever after family, concoct a plan to keep these two strong-willed adults together?

Heartfelt, slow-burn, and full of small-town warmth, this Texas romance will steal your heart.



If you have a new book to be released this year, we'd love to announce it in the newsletter and post it to the website. We are all about supporting our members with every milestone. Each month, Michelle Miles will send an email, post on Circles and Facebook asking for releases. Please respond, then be sure to attend the meeting and accept your flower during the Rose Presentation.

White Rose = First Novel Sale

Pink Rose = Subsequent Novel Sale

White Carnation (or Tulip) = Subsequent Novella Sale

Sunflower = Short Story

Gold Rose = Diamond Heart Finalist



Chapter Circles

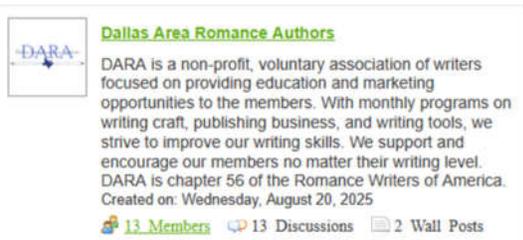
I want to ensure all chapter members are participating in RWA’s chapter circles as this is how information will be shared with chapter members. This replaces the [Groups.io](#) we had previously and is the preferred communication method for chapter information/business. You do not need to do this if you're already on Circles.

How to sign up:

- 1) Log into your RWA account
- 2) Go to My Profile
- 3) Hover over My Features and click Circles



- 4) Locate the Dallas Area Romance Authors group and Click the link.



- 5) Locate and click the JOIN button



- 6) The DARA Admins will approve your membership.

—Thanks, Michelle Miles

Writing Sprints 2026 ZOOM Link

Janet Leigh host Writing Sprints every Monday night at 7:30 CST. Look for the link in Circles and on DARA’s Facebook. Join the sprinting action on Zoom.

If you can’t click it, highlight the link and paste it in a browser.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86099936742?pwd=ApZiLtnB0J0PX30lcia4fHbHuXWeab.1>



North Texas Romance Writers invites DARA to the **Texas Two-Step Writer's Conference** at the same rate as NT Members. When you fill out the registration form, be sure to **check** the NTRW Member option, then in the "How did you hear about this conference" question, enter "DARA Member".

This conference is only hosted every other year, and the 2026 **Texas Two-Step Writer's Conference** features Amanda Arista leading three focused, workshop-style sessions to help build writers' confidence and strengthen their craft to create stories readers can't put down.

Follow this link to register and pay: <https://www.ntrw.org/p/north-texas-two-step-conference.html>.

Date: April 11, 2026 (Saturday)

Location: Hurst Conference Center in Hurst, TX.

A one-day romance writing intensive conference with Amanda Arista.

Sharpen your craft, strengthen your characters, and get your story moving in the right direction without second-guessing every step. This isn't just for romance writers; it's for writers of all genres. Join writers from all over Texas and across the country for a full day of hands-on workshops, practical tools, and writerly camaraderie.



Early Bird Pricing Ends February 15, 2026

Workshop Lineup

The WRITE Stuff: Tools for Prewriting Through Editing (4 Hours)

Learn how to build a strong story foundation before thousands of words go wandering off track. Amanda shares focusing tools you can use from idea to final polish so your words all chug in the same direction.

Why These Monkeys: Strengthening Heroines & Villains (1–2 Hours)

Readers crave flawed, resilient women and antagonists with real bite. Learn how to create meaningful character wounds, balanced arcs, and opposition that deepens emotional impact.

Down & Dirty Character Development (1 Hour)

Stop developing the wrong character for the story. This streamlined method helps you build characters with voice, depth, and a natural connection to your plot—fast.

Whether you're new to writing or working toward your next level as an author, this is a chance to learn alongside other writers and reconnect with what makes stories *work*. Lunch is included, and the format is intentionally small so everyone gets real value from the experience.

DARA Newsletter

Our Mission: DARA is focused on providing education and marketing opportunities to the members. With monthly programs on writing craft, publishing business, and writing tools, we strive to improve our writing skills. We support and encourage our members no matter their writing level.

DARA welcomes letters, comments, and articles on writing and publishing. The DARA News is seeking articles that cover self and traditional publishing, author interviews, genre and subgenre writing techniques, grammar, reports from conferences, marketing / promotions, social media, and many other writing advise and tips. You don't need to be a published author to submit an article. Send your submissions in MS Word format to Donna McGoldrick at dsmcgold@donnamcgold.com

The DARA News is published monthly from January through November. DARA does not publish a newsletter in December. **DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION is the 10th of each month.**

SUBMISSION POLICY

In the interest of good journalism the editor reserves the right to refuse or edit any material that could offend our readers and the right to edit to meet space requirements. Accuracy of the articles, announcements, and informative statements are the sole responsibility of the submitting author and not this publications or its supporting Executive Board. DARA does not endorse any person, firm, partnership, or corporation mentioned in this newsletter. Readers are urged to determine for themselves the reliability, integrity, and financial responsibility of those with whom they deal. DARA makes no warranties or representation, either expressed or implied.

To our sister Chapters: We invite you to use any part of our publication with proper credit to the author and chapter.

If you have a new release, send your information to Michelle Miles at mlmiles21@gmail.com.

Please include your name, the title, the genre, release date, format, and whether or not it's your first publication.



DARA's Website:

dallasarearomanceauthors.com

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DARA Board of Directors for 2026

- President—Michelle Miles
- President Elect—Janet Leigh
- Treasurer—Donna McGoldrick
- Secretary—Lisa Fenley

DARA Leaders

- Program Coordinator—Jennifer August
- Membership—Amanda Reid
- Member Awards (Roses) - Michelle Miles
- Communications (Newsletter / Website) - Donna McGoldrick
- Pan Liaison—Open
- Pro Liaison—Open