

DARA NEWS

The Tiny Terror or Your Mini Marketing Marvel

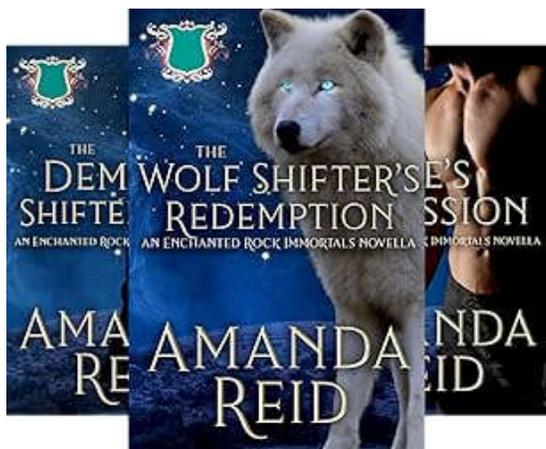
Your blurb is the second most important marketing piece for your book, but is one most authors will say they hate the most. This presentation will help you identify a plan for composing a book’s blurb from scratch, as well as assist in freshening an older one to get this important marketing piece working for you!



Bio:

Amanda Reid is the author of *The Flannigan Sisters Psychic Mysteries* and is a participating author in *The Enchanted Rock Immortals* world of paranormal romance novellas. She began writing after careers as a globe-trotting Army brat then as a federal agent. Now she’s settled in Texas and enjoys traveling with her husband and two gonzo Australian Shepherds.

If your sweet spot is smack in the middle of Romantic Suspense and Urban Fantasy, you’ll love Amanda’s action-packed paranormal romances, and those who crave a small-town, light paranormal mystery with a sister vibe will adore her cozies. Be sure to check out amandareidauthor.com for new releases, free books, and fun giveaways!



The Enchanted Rock Immortals is a vibrant paranormal romance world hosted by multiple authors, including DARA members Amanda Reid and Fenley Grant. Since publication began in 2020, associated authors have published 41 interconnected novellas and several short stories. If you love a world with all the paranormals and where love always wins, you’ll love the Enchanted Rock Immortals.

Zoom Meeting For September 28th. Social Time: 9am. Business Meeting: 9:30 am. Speaker: 10am.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83434280984?pwd=Y2NEZWF1NlhMOFYyaE1JWGM84ckp3UT09>

Meeting ID: 834 3428 0984

Passcode: 548934

President's Letter

Greenlights!

My mastermind coach recommended that we read the book *Greenlights*, by Matthew McConaughey. Without even reading anything about the book, I bought it. The book is about his life. Not being a fan of autobiographies, I decided to just read the first chapter. Like a good romance, the first chapter hooked me.

In the book, Matthew mentions that greenlights indicate that we should proceed. He then goes on to say that “greenlights is about skill, intent, context, consideration, endurance, anticipation, resilience, speed, and discipline.” He later says, “this book is about catching greenlights and realizing that the yellow and reds eventually turn green.”

While the book is his memoir, it's so much more. If I had to summarize *Greenlights*, I would say it's about life. It's about taking risks. It's about decision making. It's about embracing all that life has to offer without making excuses, blaming, or playing the victim card.

What about you? Are you advancing when you get a green light or are you hesitating and waiting for yet another confirmation?

As published authors, and soon to be published authors, so many times we are hesitant. We don't move forward, even when we have a green light. We doubt ourselves, our decision-making, and our expected outcomes. We chicken out. We don't submit to the publishing house. We don't enter the contest. We don't finish the manuscript. We don't let anyone read our work. We hesitate, and then the light turns red.

If you have been on the fence about moving forward in your writing journey, consider this your greenlight. Do the work. Write the story. Revise the story. Edit the story. Get your beta readers. Publish the story and proceed. Stop stopping.

As you may have guessed. I read the entire book. Turns out that McConaughey isn't just a sexy actor, with a lot of swag. He has depth. He embraces life. He takes risks. He lives his convictions, and he proceeds when the light turns green.

We should do the same.



—*Sharon Giddings Davis*

DARA 2025 Elections

You still have time to volunteer for the Board or other positions. We are still looking for volunteers for the positions below.

Please take the time to volunteer and send the Self-Nominated Form to the Election Coordinator, Michelle Tanner, at michelle@tannercomm.com, or bring it to the September meeting.

President-Elect:

- Shall assume the duties of the President, in presiding over all meetings of the Board and members in the absence of the President.
- Shall develop a working knowledge of Roberts Rules of Order, chapter bylaws, chapter policies and procedure; and fulfill any other obligations designated by the Board.

Treasurer:

- Shall collect membership dues.
- Notify the Board of delinquent members.
- Supervise the collection, and disbursement of chapter funds.
- Keep the financial records of the chapter in good order.
- Maintains and checks the PO Box.

Communications (Newsletter Editor & Website):

- Create the chapter's monthly newsletter.
- Get a current roster from the Membership Director in order to keep an accurate newsletter mailing list.
- Maintain the website to keep the pages updated.

Program Coordinator (PC):

- Arranges for speakers for all DARA meetings.
- Work to ensure that over the course of the year, the speakers will be diverse, equitable, and inclusive.
- Speaker topics shall be focused on the goal of educating members on the craft of writing, the business of writing, writing career development or informing members on writing related topics.
- Sends speaker announcements to the RWA groups.
- Will provide a speaker bio and photo as well as a synopsis of the workshop to the newsletter editor.
- Setup and control the ZOOM meetings.

PAN Liaison:

- Will look for opportunities for the Published Members to appear at panels, events and signings.
- Coordinates PAN activities and PAN-sponsored events as desired by PAN Members.

PRO Liaison:

- Reminds members at each meeting about the PRO program, it's requirements and procedures for applying.



DARA's September Meeting Will Be Hybrid

Don't forget, we will be hybrid for our September 2024 meeting. For those in and around the Dallas/Fort Worth Area we would love to see you in person. If in person is not an option for you, you can still join us online.



Michelle Tanner will host us once again. The location information is as follows: Grand Treviso, 330 Las Colinas Blvd., E, Irving, TX 75039. There is parking out front, on the first floor of the parking garage, on the street in front of the building, and on Mandalay.

When you arrive, tell the person at the desk you are here for the meeting, and they will put you in the elevator to the 6th floor.

Follow the signs to the Activity Room.

Am I Making The Right Decision?



Decision making isn't always easy. To help with decision making, consider the following from The Decision Coach, Nell Wulfhart.

1. Your decision is in line with your values.
2. You can see how your decision will create your future.
3. You've checked in with your feelings.
4. You've done a good risk assessment.
5. You feel excited about your choice.
6. You are encouraged by others in your decision (not that you need their approval).
7. You've made sure that your choice isn't an elaborate form of procrastination.
8. Your choice embiggens you (term from the Simpsons meaning helps you to grow).

Lure Readers Into Living Your Story

With Deep Viewpoint

by Carolyn Rae

Viewpoint done right hooks by drawing the reader deep into the story. Let the reader hear the crackle of the flames and feel the warmth through his or her skin. Encourage the reader to see and feel the story through the character's eyes and feelings.

TYPES OF VIEWPOINT

Choose the type of viewpoint that works for your story--and your intended publisher. In omniscient viewpoint, the writer is like God and shows everyone's action and thought. It's a detached viewpoint, which keeps the reader watching from outside the story.

- In first person viewpoint where you use "I," you can only tell what main character can see, hear, think, or feel. In third person single viewpoint, you only tell what that person sees, hears, thinks, and feels.
- In third person multiple viewpoint, you stay in one viewpoint at a time, but show more than one person's viewpoint.
- You can use close viewpoints or detached viewpoints. The close or deep viewpoint involves reader more in story, making him or her feel like they are there, actually living the story with the character.
- Pick best viewpoint for each scene to keep reader rooting for character. Decide who will scene affect the most, which is usually the best viewpoint to use for that scene.

If you are using more than one viewpoint, stay in one person's viewpoint for a several paragraphs so reader will identify with that character, get immersed in the story and root for that character. When you switch viewpoint, use * * * to show a scene break or name the new character and have him or her do something characteristic of that character.

TIPS TO CONSIDER

When showing thoughts, don't say *he thought* or *she thought* or *thought to herself*. You can make it obvious that's what the character is thinking. Use sentence fragments - *Damn him, Never would have thought that, What the hell?* Use viewpoint to show secret thoughts and attitude. When Catherine Lanigan wrote the books for the movies, *Romancing the Stone* and *Jewel of the Nile*, sometimes the hero acted like a cad. She used his thoughts to make him more sympathetic.

For dialogue, keep it natural sounding. Don't use long words unless character would use them. Skip small talk (hello, how are you). Screen writers try to avoid speeches more than three lines. Show character's background and attitude by words chosen. Would he or she use *I don't have* or *I ain't got?*

Men use shorter sentences and announce their opinion – *It's going to rain*. However, women often say *I think* so they won't sound too bold.

Use mannerisms & body language peculiar to character along with dialogue to identify speaker so you can avoid some (but not all) of the "he said or she said" tags. You don't want the reader to have to stop and

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re-read something to figure out who’s speaking.

Bring reader closer to story by using five senses. For example: *His voice purred into her ears. His spicy aftershave teased her nose. His breath warmed her neck, and she felt his arms slide around her.* Use the five senses in a way natural to character- examples:

- She’d recognize White Diamonds perfume. He’d say she smelled nice.
- The city girl wrinkles her nose at the smell of manure, the farm girl feels at home.
- He’d say her skin was soft as a puppy’s ear. She’d say his skin was leathery.
- Avoid *she saw* or *she watched* if you’re in her viewpoint, just tell what she saw.
- Don’t use *felt* very often. Say *the breeze chilled her arms.*

Don’t jerk the reader out of the story by:

- Have the hero think about something he couldn’t know about yet.
- Have one person tell another something the other probably already knows.
- Adding long paragraphs of description--blend in with action and thoughts.
- Don’t refer to a person as a woman or man after mentioning person’s name,
- Don’t overuse a person’s name--use he or she whenever possible, unless there are more than one person of that gender in the area.

Show emotions - don’t name them, use body language - he slammed the door

RESOURCE BOOKS -

[THE POWER OF POINT OF VIEW](#), by Alicia Rasley,

TALKING FROM 9-5, by Deborah Tannen,

MEN ARE FROM MARS, WOMEN ARE FROM VENUS, by John Gray.

Carolyn Rae’s passion is writing romantic suspense and delving into the minds of stalkers, bombers and terrorists that threaten the course of true love. Her published novels include her *Romancing the Gold*, *Romancing the Doctor*, *Romancing the Vet*, *Cordillera Royals-Pretend Princess*, *Royal Wedding Scoop*, *Forgotten Princess*, *Holiday with a Royal*, *The Prince’s Honeymoon for One*.

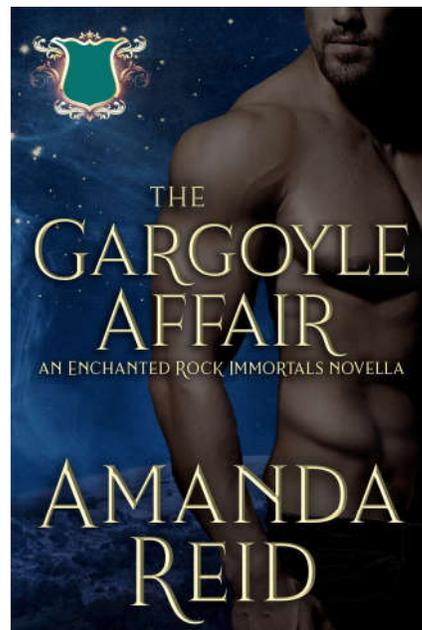


New Releases / Member's News

Title: The Gargoyle Affair
Author: Amanda Reid
Release Date: September 3, 2024
Available In: Kindle
Genre: Paranormal Romance
First Sale / Subsequent: Subsequent sale.

Empath Tabby McBee should be concentrating on starting over after divorce devastated her finances, cost her employment, and shattered her trust. She definitely shouldn't be distracted by Fernald Grayson, a stoic gargoyle she doesn't want to admit is eminently trustworthy and devastatingly handsome.

Fernald's newfound freedom from his family and fae lord is growing on him. So is beautiful, vivacious Tabitha, but this human paranormal so far out of his league, he can only desire her from afar...until a series of accidents befall the lovely empath and he vows to keep her safe.



Soon, the strange occurrences become dangerous, random attacks. Now, Tabby and Fernald must learn to trust once more before their lives and flowering feelings are cruelly nipped in the bud.



By The Numbers

- 68% of people kiss on the first date
- 92% of marriages end in divorce in Portugal
- 1% of marriages end in divorce in the India
- 50% of marriages end in divorce in the USA
- 65% of women, ages 15-49, use some form of birth control
- 60% of heterosexual relationships are initiated by men
- 86% of relationships where the woman made the first move led to marriage



Membership Spotlight

If you are interested in being spotlighted in a future DARA newsletter, please answer question **one**, and as many of the other questions that you feel comfortable answering. Not all questions and responses will be published, only a sampling. Send your responses and a headshot to Sharon Davis at sgiddings-davis@sbcglobal.net.

Depending on the number of responses, we will highlight one – two members each month. Have fun!

1. Tell us about yourself. Where did you grow up? Where did you go to school? Major? What did you want to be when you were younger? Marital status? Children? Pets? What is your occupation/ was your occupation, if retired? Add any other general information you want to share.
2. What kind of romance do you write?
3. What kind of romance do you read?
4. What is your favorite food?
5. What is your favorite drink?
6. Who is your dream guy/girl?
7. What is your favorite pastime?
8. If you could visit anywhere in the world, where would it be?
9. If time, talent, and money were of no consequence – what would you be doing with your life?
10. What is something about you that no one in DARA knows (that you don't mind sharing)?
11. Who would be invited to your dream dinner party (alive or dead individuals)?
12. If you had a magic wand and could change one thing, what would it be?
13. What is your favorite quote or saying?
14. What is your best skill, asset, or talent?
15. If you could have one superpower, what would you want it to be?
16. What is your worst habit?
17. Finish this sentence: I wish DARA...
18. Finish this sentence: I wish I had _____ like _____.
19. Finish this sentence: What I love most about romance is ...
20. Finish this sentence: My favorite movie is...
21. Finish this sentence: My favorite book is ...
22. Finish this sentence: My favorite author is...
23. Finish this sentence: When I was little, I used to...
24. Finish this sentence: I write best when...

RWA 2024 Annual Conference



The RWA Conference is in Austin, TX this year. DARA will have a giveaway to put in the goody room as a way to promote the Chapter. We'll have small burlap bags with a journal inside. The journal will have a DARA sticker on the front with a pen. The bag will also have some candy and DARA bookmarks. We encourage all DARA authors to bring their bookmarks to the September (face-to-face) meeting. Your bookmarks will be added to the bag. If you can't make it to the meeting, you're welcome to send your bookmarks to Donna McGoldrick at 3195 Dry Branch, West, TX. 76691.

—Thanks



Let us hear from you!

If you have ideas for DARA or would like to help us improve our organization, please share them with our board. Send your suggestions to info@dallasarearomanceauthors.com. We want to hear from you.

DARA Newsletter

Our Mission: To inform the membership about chapter events, RWA news and classes, our member’s good news, and other things important to our members.

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 news- letter 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 men- tioned in this newsletter. Readers are urged to determine for themselves the reliability, integrity, and finan- cial responsibility of those with whom they deal. DARA makes no warranties or representation, either ex- pressed 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 in- formation to Michelle Miles at mlmiles21@gmail.com.

Please include your Name, Title, Release Date, Available In (what format), Genre, and whether or not it’s your first publication..



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DARA Board of Directors for 2024

- President—Sharon Davis
- President Elect—Donna McGoldrick
- Treasurer—(Acting Treasurer, Sharon Davis)
- Secretary—Janet Leigh

DARA Leaders

- Program Coordinator—Anita Learned
- Membership—Carolyn Williamson
- Member Awards (Roses) - Michelle Miles
- Communications (Newsletter / Website) - Donna McGoldrick
- Pan Liaison—Open
- Pro Liaison—Open