

DARA NEWS



Michelle Miles

Plan Brave New Worlds that Live and Breathe

Ready to craft immersive worlds that feel real, vivid, and unforgettable? In this workshop, you'll learn how to build living, breathing worlds from the ground up—whether you're writing epic fantasy, science fiction, or anything in between. We'll dive deep into setting, culture, magic, politics, and conflict, showing you how each element shapes your story and your characters. You'll walk away with a clear understanding for designing worlds that

leap off the page and captivate readers. Come ready to dream big, dig deep, and unleash your inner worldbuilder!

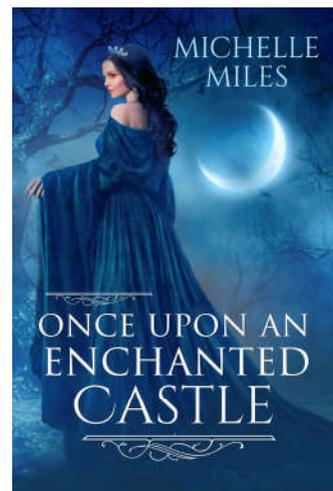
About Michelle: MICHELLE MILES believes in fairy tales, true love, and a little bit of magic in every story. She writes fantasy, paranormal, and young adult books packed with adventure, action, and swoon-worthy romance—because what’s a story without a bit of danger and a whole lot of heart? From angels and demons to dragons, elves, and time travelers, her books are filled with epic quests, fierce heroines, and the kind of heroes worth falling for.

When she's not crafting new adventures, she brings stories to life as a narrator and hosts Miles Beyond the Page, a podcast where she chats with authors about their writing journeys. A Texas girl through and through, she loves getting lost in a good book, binge-watching movies, hiking the trails, and sipping a glass of wine. Come hang out with her on Facebook, Instagram, Pinterest, and more!

Book 4 in the Enchanted Realms



Title: Once Upon An Enchanted Castle
Author: Michelle Miles
Genre: YA Fantasy Romance
Release Date: May 30, 2025
Available In: Kindle



President’s Letter

“Over every mountain there is a path, although it may not be seen from the valley.” –Theodore Roethke



Happy Father’s Day!!

I think this quote seems to fit as I muddle through the second half of the middle in my WIP. If I can make it to the midpoint, I’ll be able to see the ending. While writing the middle, I tend to transform from a plotter to a pantsner. I have the Hero’s Journey mapped out from inciting incident to resolution, then the story changes somewhere in the middle and I find myself hanging on to see what happens. Will it end according to plan? I really don’t know.

June is also a midpoint on the calendar. We’re half-way through the year. It’s time to start asking for 2026 Board nominees. Michelle Tanner will continue with Election Coordinator duties this year. She’ll be asking for your participation, and I hope you step-up and give back. The schedule is as follows:

June/July – Gather Nominees.

August/Sept – Post nominees in the newsletter.

October 10th – Chapter Votes for a new board.

October – Post election results in the newsletter.

December – New board is introduced to the chapter. Old board & New board meeting and handover.

The positions available will be president-elect, secretary, treasurer, program coordinator, newsletter editor / website, and membership coordinator. I’ll list out the duties of each position in the July newsletter.

June is our quarterly in-person meeting. I have reserved the Lochwood Library on Lochwood Blvd. I hope to see everyone there.

—Donna McGoldrick

Zoom Meeting For May 24th. Social Time: 9am. Business Meeting: 9:30 am. Speaker: 10am.

Click the Link to Join the Zoom Meeting. If you can’t click it, highlight the link and paste it in a browser.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89546354660?pwd=u21xAD6ii05leZd0bb6pCDwX8KyRiM.1>

Meeting ID: 895 4635 4660

Passcode: 897562

Hybrid Meeting In June

We’ll meet in-person in June at the Lochwood Branch Library. The address is 11221 Lochwood Blvd., Dallas, TX (214) 670-8403.

Author Interview with Sharon Snyder

Submitted by Donna McGoldrick



Since childhood, Sharon has been a storyteller, crafting a fictional world as a refuge from the arduous realities of life. She devotes her time to her family, rescue cats, reading, researching, and creating her favorite imaginary world of fictional historical romance characters.

Welcome Sharon, and thank you for taking the time for this interview.

Tell us a little about yourself.

At my age, this is perhaps the most challenging question anyone can ask. I have lived seven decades, and looking back, I believe I have reinvented myself every ten years or so.

Of course, for the first twenty, I was trying to find myself, and the next twenty were attempting to create the person everyone else believed I should be: a wife, a mother, and a homemaker. When I look back at those forty years, the only consistent thing about them was my escape into the world of reading and writing. I found myself in the world of happily ever after's, fairytales and dreams of living in a world that consisted of swirling ballrooms with a nobleman on a noble steed.

The remaining thirty years were spent creating the world and the person I wanted to be. Of course, that came with the grim realities of keeping a roof over my head, clothes on my person and food on the table.

I travelled a great deal, discovering a world of many cultures and meeting fascinating people from every socio-economic background. I also found a world filled with individuals who were vastly different but very much the same.

I grew up in a family of athletes and enjoyed an extremely active life. In my early years, I participated in every sport available to women. I loved boating and skiing, both water and snow, and was passionate about jet skis. In my sixties, I exhibited horses on the national and world pleasure and performance circuit.

Then my world came crashing down around me when I came to understand my active life had taken its toll on my small, framed body in many ways.

By the time I was sixty-five, I knew I had to find another passion—one that would stimulate my soul and rest a body that had spent far too many years in constant motion. It was not easy... until.

Until I retrieved some old manuscripts and began to imagine another world, one I wished to create—one where I could bury my heart and my soul and, once completed, feel the same joy I felt when my name was the last one to be called in the competitions throughout my life.



Sharon Snyder Continued

I hired a professional literary coach and put my pen to paper, literally. It always seemed that my mind had a direct connection to my writing hand, and through it, my creations would come to life.

I learned a great deal from him about the business of writing and publishing books. However, after writing and mailing over 250 query letters within a week, mailing them off like Christmas cards, I called my coach and asked him about self-publishing.

We discussed the long-term process of finding an agent and, in turn, a traditional publisher before I began writing those queries and a synopsis. During that overwhelming process, I faced the reality of just how old I was. Before I received the first response, I knew I did not have, nor did I care to wait for years to see my book in print.

I do not write for the money, nor even for a career. This is a passion; this is bearing my soul through fictitious characters. Characters that I eventually grow to love and nurture in their world, with their problems, where I hold the quill to resolve them with every stroke.

With the blessings and support of my husband, my son and future daughter-in-law, two Arabian horses and four cats, I spend my days in the small town of Whitesboro, Texas, north of the Dallas area, spinning tales of English nobility, their romances and scandals during the Regency Era.

What is your favorite aspect of writing historical romance?

The elegance of a time long gone, the beauty of a world of innocence and even the bubble in which they lived.

What do you think are the key elements that keep your readers engaged?

I am learning to place my soul in each of my books, and as I grow in my writing, I see the difference from my first books, where I remained on the outside, and the current ones, where I expose myself and tear down the walls I spent decades building for protection.

What is your typical writing process? How do you stay focused? And do you use writing software tools?

I write every day, even if some or even all of it ends with the “delete” key.

I stay focused by reading, reading, and reading in my sub-genre or at least very closely related to it. I read a great many of the literary authors of the late 18th and early 19th centuries, along with the classics. I live and breathe the era within which I write.

Yes, I use many software tools, beginning with Microsoft Word. I tried others, but always came back to Word. I suppose it is my comfort zone. I don’t have to think; only create.

How do you keep details straight while writing a series?

I use Plottr, even if it doesn’t involve a series. I may change my mind and find one of the characters in one of my standalone novels who refuses to leave and demands to have their own story written.



Sharon Snyder Continued



What is it like as an Indie published author? What challenges have you faced?

As an Indie author, I control my stories, my timelines, publishing dates and my marketing or lack thereof.

I have many challenges. Although making a living is not my focus, reaching readers is. I want to share my stories, and that is my biggest challenge.

I love writing, creating book covers and blurbs, and even publishing them. But that is where my ideas and my energy hit the proverbial brick wall.

Can you talk about your current work in progress?

I am always ready to talk about my work in progress. I decided this year to set aside the fourth book in my series, *Born For*, and focus on novellas. I have written three, and all are in the editing process; one is off for review. Two are second-chance romances, and one is my typical feisty heroine and rakish hero. Of course, all my heroines are feisty, in one way or another.

The book in review- **That Last Summer**, is about a third son, who has lost his only love because he has no title or prospect of one. Without a title, he is not deemed good enough for the hand of a duke's daughter, even if she doesn't have the good sense to know it and loves him anyway. After five years of debauchery, destruction and the loss of his father and two older brothers, he has finally put his life back together and become responsible. All the while, the duke's daughter, five years ago, disappeared without a trace, only to reappear now, to come to the aid of her niece, who has fallen ill on the viscount's property. Thirty-two thousand words later, secrets and lies are revealed, along with a dragon duchess determined to keep them all secret no matter the cost.

The second novella, **The Earl's Wife**, went over the cliff into a short novel after the hero and heroine continued to be stubborn and obstinate far after forty thousand words. They are both widowed, he with a forced marriage because his father had mortgaged their entire estate and gambled away their fortune. The girl he is forced to marry, an earl's daughter, had many secrets her father and mother hoped to hide to prevent a scandal; our hero fit the bill, and spent the next ten years in an honour-bound hell. Our heroine marries her childhood friend to cover his secret, and although friends, she has spent ten years in a loveless marriage. Both have been locked away in the country. Now they have both returned to London and the Ton.

The third, **Settling for The Duke**, is a simple story, really. A duke, after his father's death, finds a betrothal contract among his father's papers and decides to force its legality, along with marriage to a girl he has never met. Our heroine, who has refused every offer made for the past several years, is having none of it and decides her only recourse is to run away. Of course, for a spoiled upper-society young lady, it quickly becomes a nightmare... until. Until she meets a handsome nobleman, whom in the beginning she treats abominably. He only wishes to help. She, on the other hand, only wants to keep running in the hope that her older brother in York will protect her from her father and the horrid duke, who wants to force her into marriage.

Where to find me:

Website: <https://sksnyder.com/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/s.k.snyder/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/S.K.Snyder.Author/>

New Releases



Title: Sometime Around Midnight
Author: Stephanie Pass
Genre: Contemporary Romance
Release Date: June 16, 2025
Available In: Kindle & Paperback
Length: 432 Pages
First/Subsequent Sale: Subsequent

Darci Griffin believes she's cursed when it comes to love. After countless awkward first dates and an endless string of lonely nights, she's convinced herself she's simply unlovable.

Alex Dixon lost everything three years ago—the wife he adored and the daughter he never got to hold. Drowning in grief and wrapped in guilt, he's sworn off relationships, certain love could only ever betray him again.

When an accidental run-in pushes Darci and Alex reluctantly into each other's lives, their initial friction quickly ignites into a chemistry neither expected. They're drawn together by laughter, stubborn sparks, and late-night conversations they never saw coming. But embracing each other means confronting old wounds and risking hearts they've fiercely guarded.

Can two people trapped by their pasts rewrite their future together?

SOMETIME AROUND MIDNIGHT is a steamy, heartfelt enemies-to-lovers romance about healing old scars and finding the courage to believe in love again.

See more from Stephanie at <https://authorstephaniepass.com/>

MILES BEYOND THE PAGE Be sure to check-out Miles Beyond The Page with Michelle Miles.



Mary Karlik (aka Mary J. Wilson)
Scottish Roots & Writing Romance.
Go to: <https://youtu.be/Slo6UaIfU4o>



Janet Leigh
Snarky Time Travel, Rom-Coms & Real-Life Inspiration.
Go to: https://youtu.be/rQ8N46eAe_g

DARA Elections - October 10th!

DARA’s elections are not too far off. We have three months to select nominees for the 2026 Board of Directors. The Elections Coordinator (EC) will solicit members for Board positions in July, August, & September.

As members of DARA, you need to think seriously about giving back to the chapter and volunteering.

Schedule for elections:

June: Select Elections Coordinator.

July/August/September: Gather nominees. Publish the nominees bios in the newsletter.

October 10th: Vote for the 2026 Board of Directors. Publish the election results in the Oct/Nov newsletter.

December 6th: Introduce the new Board at the holiday party. Old Board and New Board will meet to handover information.



2025 Speaker Lineup

July 26 - No speaker this month

Aug 23 - Susan Gable - Character Mottos

Sept 27 - Lexi Blake - Building suspense

Oct 25 - Melissa Bourbon Ramirez—Pinterest for Authors

Dec 6 - Jane Porter - TBA.

I have not found a venue for Dec. Libraries will not let us bring in food.

If you have suggestions on where to meet in December, send me an email to info@dallasarearomanceauthors.com



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: 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, title, date of publication, publisher, format, and whether or not it's your first publication.



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DARA Board of Directors for 2025

President—Donna McGoldrick

President Elect—Michelle Miles

Treasurer—Dren James

Secretary—Janet Leigh

DARA Leaders

Program Coordinator—Jennifer August

Membership—Donna McGoldrick

Member Awards (Roses) - Michelle Miles

Communications (Newsletter / Website) - Donna McGoldrick

Pan Liaison—Open

Pro Liaison—Open