



The Next Chapter

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It's Monday Meeting Readings

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 The Roving Pen
 - 2 Meet the Speakers
 - 3 Pitch and Pass
 - 4 2019 Conference Schedule
 - 4 Is It a Romance or a Love Story
 - 4 Writer's Groups & Events
 - 6 ETWG and TNC Info
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Prepare for the meeting on Monday, July 8. It requires your full participation. Either you're reading 1,500 words to the ETWG crowd or we're listening. Hopefully a lot of both.

Time to show your stuff. Or show more stuff. You shouldn't pass at a captivated audience—or is that captive audience? When they're all ears, don't pass it up.

Better give it some practice. A time limit will be enforced. But Roger Middleton will set up a microphone to make sure everyone can hear you. See you there.

The Roving Pen

by Tamara Kratzer

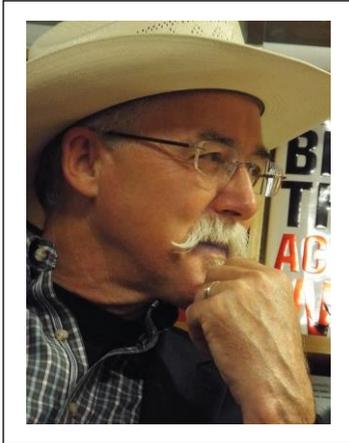
It's out and about with Maggie Hodges, our new summer intern. She attends UNT in Denton with an English major stressing creative writing. We met in Barnes & Noble. Both of us decided it was a dangerous place to hang around. After all, both of us love books and reading. A couple of hours could go by before she'd notice the time had gone, and of course she'd have to buy a book. Yep, Maggie fits right in to ETWG. She's a writer and a reader. Good thing she's from Tyler.

Don't ask her what her favorite author or book is though. She told me she can't choose because "it's like picking a favorite child." But some of her top authors are Stephen King and Victoria Schwab. She's even into classics like Jane Austen and Shakespeare—think Richard III not Romeo and Juliet. No genre is left out.

Writing is in her blood. Her mother opened worlds to her when she read her bedtime stories. Maggie takes a lot of inspiration from her mother's fearless strength. Her father also has the heart of a storyteller. Every year for her mother's birthday, Maggie writes her a little murder mystery with her family and friends as characters. That could get interesting.



Please see *The Roving Pen* page 3



Meet the Speakers of the 2019 Conference

Reavis Z. Wortham

Reavis Z. Wortham writes the Red River historical mystery series and the high octane Sonny Hawke contemporary westerns. *Hawke's War* was recognized by the Western Writers of America as the Best Mass Market Paperback of 2019. *Kirkus Reviews* listed his first novel in a Starred Review, *The Rock Hole*, as one of the "Top 12 Mysteries of 2011." *True West* magazine recognized *Vengeance is Mine* as one of the Top 5 Westerns of 2015, while *The Strand Magazine* placed *Dark Places* in their Top 12 Novels of 2015. The Sonny Hawke series by Kensington Publishing debuted in July, 2017, with *Hawke's Prey*, featuring contemporary Texas Ranger, Sonny Hawke. He is the 2019 Spur Award Winner, presented by the Western Writers of America, for *Hawke's War* released in May 2018.

Reavis Z. Wortham will take you through the essential craft lessons he's learned as an author. He has been writing for over 30 years, first as a self-syndicated newspaper columnist, then for magazines, before writing his first novel in 2011. He'll touch on writing crisp, realistic dialogue, how to re-write weak sentences, and what to avoid in that manuscript you keep massaging. He's learned through hard work and error how to avoid the passive sentence, those pesky adverbs that seem to sprout up out of nowhere, and how to build suspense and tension as your work progresses to the climax.

Check him out at the conference. And our next speaker. They both will likely help you whip your stories into shape.

Arianne "Tex" Thompson

Be prepared for this one. It sounds like she'll get us in line when it comes to the writing. She's got a bachelor's in history and master's in literature, an interesting combination.

She was once described as "an explosion of 52 enthusiastic kittens latching onto everything at once." In addition to writing the 'Children of the Drought' epic fantasy Western series, Tex is the founder and 'chief instigator' for WORD - Writers Organizations 'Round Dallas. When she's not leading the charge at home in Dallas, Tex brings her particular brand of 'red-penthusiasm' to conferences, conventions, and workshops all over the country - as an egregiously enthusiastic, endlessly energetic one-woman stampede. Find her online at www.TheTexFiles.com!



— *Arianne Thompson*

Pitch and Pass—The Art of Sharing the Love

by Nancy Hudgins

When I first began this journey to published author, I had the great fortune to meet Patty Wiseman who became not only my good friend, but my mentor, and critique partner. I learned so much from her that helped me get to this point in my career. And one of the most important things was the concept of pitch and pass. What exactly is pitch and pass and why do you need to know about it?

When you went to your first book signing, whether alone or with other authors, one of the first things you discovered is that not everyone is going to want to read what you write. And it didn't take you long to discover that, either. Sometimes, it's as easy as the expression on their face as they look at your display. Sometimes, it happens as soon as you begin your spiel; they look away, him-haw around or their eyes glaze over. They may, however, be in to what another author writes, so you ask, "What do you like to read?" If another author fills that bill, pass them on. You get your pitch, if it falls on deaf ears, you pass.

This is especially true with my genre – somewhat steamy romance. A lot of people like romance, but not necessarily the steamy variety, so if I am with another author who writes clean or Christian or flinch free, or whatever you want to call it, then I will immediately refer the potential customer to that author.

And the concept is not limited to those events where more than one author is present. Keep cards for some of your author friends handy. If you are at an event alone, simply pass those cards on to the reader and encourage them to check it out. I do this all the time. It lets the customer off the hook because they didn't like your particular genre and lets them know you are okay with that. You show class and style by recommending someone else. And, chances are, if they know someone who does read what you write, they will pay it forward.

I don't see another author as competition. I see them as just like me...trying to gather readers and if I can do something to help them along, like pitch and pass, I do it.

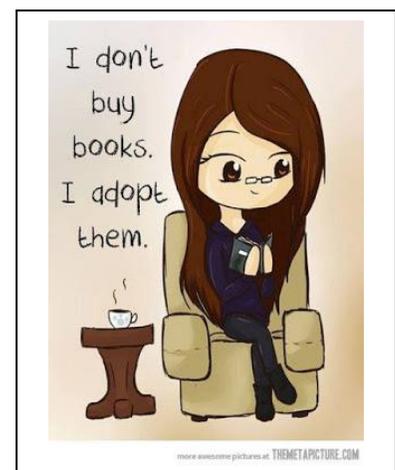
The Roving Pen from page 1

Maggie was into writing fantasy in high school. In college under her professor's influence, she has delved into the short story and more realistic writing. She loves learning about the craft. The process of writing fascinates her, seeing the structure of the story unfold and building it. It's not a surprise to find that she wants to go into the publishing industry for publishing and editing.

Of course it's not all about writing—or is it? When she's not with her dogs, you might find her enjoying art from artists like Vincent Van Gogh or Caravaggio, listening to music, or walking with her dad in the park. Most likely though you'll find her in her favorite spot in her room by the window or outdoors somewhere writing with phone or laptop or perhaps reading another story.

. Member Nancy Hudgins, who writes under the pen name Dana Wayne, just released her fourth novel, a contemporary romance entitled *Chasing Hope*. Can a precocious seven year old be the catalyst to heal a wounded warrior's soul and bring joy back into her mother's life? Or will ashes of the past destroy hope once and for all?

<https://www.amazon.com/-/e/B01GGDXSR6>



2019 ETWG Conference Schedule

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| 8:30 – 8:55 | Sign-in, registration |
| 8:55-9:00 | Welcome, housekeeping |
| 9:00-10:00 | Sally Berneathy “Fortune, Editors, and Readers Favor Those Who Write Correct English” |
| 10:00-10:15 | Break |
| 10:15-10:25 | Door Prizes |
| 10:25-11:25 | Suzette Doescher “How to Write About Crazy People Like You Know What You’re Writing About” |
| 11:25-12:25 | Lunch |
| 12:25-12:35 | Door Prizes |
| 12:35-1:35 | Tex Thompson “Prose P90X: Ten Steps to a Leaner, Cleaner, Meaner Manuscript” |
| 1:35-1:45 | Break |
| 1:45-2:45 | Reavis Wortham “Lessons I Didn’t Know I Should Learn” |
| 2:45-3:00 | Door Prizes, Conclusion |

Is It a Romance or a Love Story?

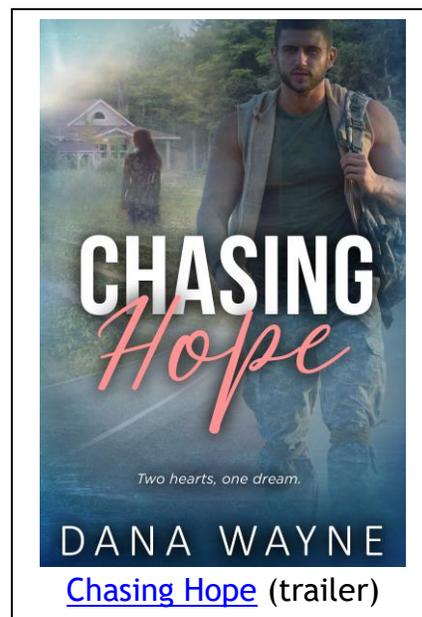
by Nancy Hudgins AKA Dana Wayne

There is no question the romance genre dominates the book industry. Just look at the statistics: over 1 billion dollars in sales each year, accounting for almost 46% of the fiction market. A solid quarter of bestsellers are romance. Harlequin, one of the world’s leading romance publishers, issues over 100 titles a month in 34 languages on six continents and have shipped more than 6.38 *billion* books worldwide.

Romance readers are, by far, the most dedicated fans. General fiction readers may go through 1-3 books a year, while romance readers do that in a week. Or less. The rule of supply and demand sent authors who previously put out a book every year or so, to producing two and three titles a year.

The romance element is a staple in all types of literature from thriller to mystery to suspense and everything in between. So when is it a romance and not a love story?

(continued next page)



Is It a Romance or a Love Story?

(cont.) by Nancy Hudgins AKA Dana Wayne

A romance novel has clear and demanding expectations. While readers may allow for a certain amount of creativity from the author, key rules are etched in stone. It must have a great hero and heroine. Sacrifices must fall on both parties, just one, be it personal, financial, or professional. And, of course, they must face challenges, sometimes seemingly insurmountable. How can she fall in love with the son of her family's sworn enemy or the man who bought the family farm and turned it into a resort?

Everyone knows what's going to happen in the end. It's the journey that matters – not the destination. The rough and rocky road they must travel to HEA (happily ever after) is why readers buy the book. Love and HEA will prevail.

As far as I am concerned, *Pride and Prejudice* is the quintessential romance. Lizzie and Mr. Darcy face all sorts of obstacles over a period of time before their HEA. I have traveled that road with them many times and will do so again. For a true romantic (like me), the story never gets old.

On the flip side, the movie *Love Story* is just that - a love story. Why? Because it breaks the cardinal rule of romance; someone, the hero or the heroine, dies. With death, there is no HEA.

The search for true love can be played out against any background; past, present or even future. It can be reality based or pure fantasy, this world or one conjured in the writer's vivid imagination. As long as the essential elements of your specific genre are followed, whether your goal is pure romance or an enticing love story, there are readers who can't wait to walk the path with you.

Personally, I think we need more romance in our lives. We live in a hectic, stress-filled world. Reading, particularly a romance novel, takes us away for a while, allows us to forget our toils and troubles, and live vicariously through the author's words. And we know that, no matter what happens, no matter how bleak things are, in the end, love will prevail. There will *always* be a happily ever after.

We need that underlying message of hope and encouragement. The good guy wins. The heroine finds her hero, proving it is possible to overcome any obstacle in your way, achieve success, and find happiness.

Writers Groups and Events in East Texas

Whether you are looking for group in a particular area or for extra writer inspiration, you can find something here:

North East Texas Writers Organization (NETWO) meets the second Thursday of each month in Mount Pleasant at 6 PM, for any genre and stage in writing. The July 11 meeting features Scott Link, East Texas independent filmmaker. www.netwo.org

July 20 ETWG 2019 Writers Conference is coming. It goes 9 AM-3 PM, but get there early. Goodies, door

prizes, and lots of fun meeting other writers and listening to speakers. Don't miss it.

Aug 2-3 Bell County Comic Con 2019 while not in East Texas, the towns of Killeen/Temple aren't that far away. It's at the Bell County Expo Center in Belton, TX. Comics, vendors, cosplay, and check out the guests. Sounds like inspiration for the right writer. <https://www.bellcountycomiccon.com/>

TNC Newsletter and ETWG Information

TNC Submission Guidelines and deadlines

All submitted data must be received by the last Monday of the month prior to the month in which art/ad/etc. will appear.

Length—up to 500 words (ask if more)

Format—single space, no indent

Fonts—12 pt. Times New Roman

Photos—jpeg with caption instructions

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