

RWA Romance Writers of America
The Voice of Romance Writers

eNotes

A Weekly Newsletter from Romance Writers of America

Congratulations to our Diamond Heart and Golden Heart Award Finalists!

THE **DIAMOND HEART**[®]

The Diamond Heart Award for Excellence in Published Romance Writing

Contemporary Romance

A Chef's Kiss Christmas - Peggy Jaegar

Cajun in a Kilt - Louisa Cornell

Lessons from the Rancher - Anna Grace

Royal Calexa - Luis - Nancy Herkness

The Next Round - Eva Frances

What Happens In Idaho - Bonnie Jo Pierson

Historical Romance

By No Means a Gentleman - Tanya Wilde

Captured Hearts - Eva Maria Hamilton

Guarded Hearts - Eva Maria Hamilton

Love Across Genres

The Wider World - Andrea Jones

Wish Upon a Christmas Star - Elle Douglas

You Are My Favorite Bad Idea - Edwina Darke

Romantic Suspense

Love Me Knot - Jo Chambliss

Protector for Disguise - Veronica Forand

Ultimate Justice - Tee O'Fallon

THE **GOLDEN HEART**[®]

The Golden Heart Award for Excellence in Pre-published Romance Writing

Contemporary Romance

Christine's Journey - Linda Ann Boucher

Christmas Remembered - M K Stone

Don't Promise Me Tomorrow - Eliza San Juan

Three Date Minimum - Lauren Bentley

Love Across Genres

Bidding on Her Ex - Liza Farran

Love's Map to Destiny - M K Stone

The Bastard Duke - Audrey Taylor

This Planet Between Us - Tara Duval

In this eNotes you can expect:

News & RWA Announcements & Upcoming Events

PAN & PRO Community Updates

Member Resources

Links & Features

Chapter Events
Click this box

Thank you to all applicants for sharing your work with us! Winners we be announced at the Awards dinner during our Annual Conference, this July in Albuquerque.

Help Us Spread the Word!

So You Want to Write Romance?

We're calling on our members to help us spread the word about, *So You Want to Write Romance?* Please [download](#) the graphic below and share it on your social media pages, chapter newsletters, and other networks to help us reach aspiring romance writers who may be ready to begin their journey.

Feel free to use the suggested copy below when sharing the graphic:

Option 1 - Love romance novels? Ever thought about writing one yourself? *So You Want to Write Romance?* is the perfect place to begin. Save your spot today: linktr.ee/romancewriters

Option 2 - Your romance writing journey can start today. Join *So You Want to Write Romance?* and connect with a community that supports writers at every stage. Learn more here: linktr.ee/romancewriters

Option 3 - Know someone who wants to write romance? Please share this opportunity with aspiring writers in your community. *So You Want to Write Romance?* is now open for registration: linktr.ee/romancewriters

Scam Alert for Authors

We're seeing a rise in sophisticated email scams targeting writers, with bad actors posing as literary agents, editors, and even film producers offering "too good to be true" opportunities. These messages often look legitimate and may reference real industry names. Their goal is to gain your trust, your money, or both.

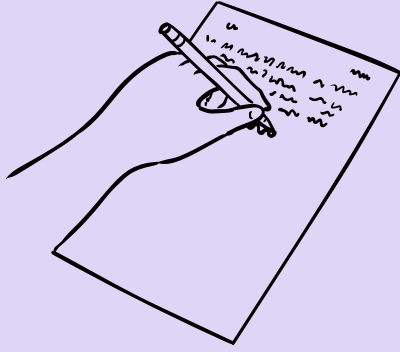
Quick tip: Look up the agency, publisher, or production company using official websites—not links provided in the email—and confirm the contact information matches. If it doesn't, it's a red flag.

Want to learn more about how these scams work and how to protect yourself? At the **RWA 2026 Annual Conference** in Albuquerque, retired federal agent John Bokal will lead a workshop on identifying scams, spotting warning signs, and safeguarding your career.



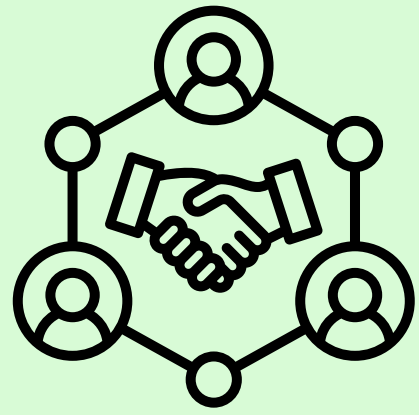
[Register Here](#)

Next PRO Power Up Session



Topic: Writing Challenge Start
Date: Tuesday, May 19, 2026
Time: 7:00 PM Central Time

[SIGN UP](#)



Next PAN Power Up Session

Topic: Open Networking with Other
Authors
Date: Tuesday, May 5, 2026
Time: 7:00 PM Central Time

[SIGN UP](#)

Advertisement

*A powerful journey
continues...*

N. K. JEMISIN

Our 42nd Damon
Knight Memorial
Grand Master



Join SFVA in
Chicago this June 3-7
for the 61st Nebula
Awards Ceremony

SFVA.ORG

Join us for the 61st Annual Nebula Awards Conference and Nebula Awards Ceremony! Hosted by the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers Association (SFVA), the celebration will take place in Chicago, IL from June 3-7 at the Crowne Plaza Chicago O'Hare Hotel & Conference Center. SFVA brings together writers at all stages of their careers for panels, workshops, and networking focused on speculative fiction. Sessions will explore how writers engage with worldbuilding not just as creation, but as an ongoing process of questioning, reshaping, and reimagining the worlds we inhabit. Nebula finalists and industry professionals will also lead workshops and panels examining how breaking from restrictive norms can open space for deeper understanding, empathy, and new possibilities. This year's conference honors N.K. Jemisin as SFVA Grand Master and is hosted by Tananarive Due. Both in-person and online tickets are available at Store.sfva.org

★ **BEST SELLER** ★

April 29, 2026 Romance Bestsellers

Congratulations to the RWA members who hit the [New York Times](#), [Publishers Weekly](#), [USA Today](#), [Amazon](#), and [Barnes and Noble](#) best-seller lists this week.

LINKS AND FEATURES

PRH, IOWA SAFE SCHOOLS PETITION APPEALS COURT

PUBLISHER'S WEEKLY, APRIL 28, 2026

Plaintiffs in two complaints against [Iowa Senate File 496](#), a bill that has enabled the removal of hundreds of K–12 library books in the state, have filed petitions for en banc hearings at the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals, whose jurisdiction includes Arkansas, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota. [Read More...](#)



BOOK MANUFACTURING COULD SOON SEE MAJOR CHANGES

PUBLISHER'S WEEKLY, APRIL 27, 2026

A new report from the Book Manufacturers' Institute on the state of the book industry predicts that printing is on the cusp of potential major changes. "Despite the uncertain economy and geopolitical tension, 2026 is poised to be a year in which book manufacturers and their customers can collaborate to shift the tides on how the industry has operated for decades,". [Read More...](#)



MEMBER RESOURCES

The MAY IngramSpark Discount Code is **AS5792. REMINDER:** These codes allow members to receive **two free 30-minute Connect Sessions per month**, per member. Connect Sessions are one-on-one virtual meetings that provide independent authors and publishers with support from IngramSpark professionals.

Power Up Rewind

The March 2025 PAN Power Up Session was **Forensics 101**, with an overview on forensic science!

Click the icon below to re-watch and learn more!



Mental Health Resources

- [NAMI](#)
- [National Suicide Prevention Lifeline](#)
- [Live Another Day](#)
- [Trauma and PTSD Resources: Fairland Recovery Center](#)
- [The Summit Wellness Group](#)

Craft Corner

Did you know we have craft advice and author survival guides available on our website?

Check out DJ Cracovia's advice on how to overcome writer's block [here!](#)

We want to hear from you!

What do you want to see in RWA communications?

Click the link below and help us deliver what you want to hear!

Submit [here](#)