



IN THIS ISSUE

Work in Progress

Our Interview

Calls for Submissions

Author Spotlight

Bits and Pieces

The Question of the Day

About Us

Work in Progress

Congratulations to the following authors who have been selected to appear in the romance anthology - A Kiss and a Promise

Charley Clarke
Christine Collier
Daniel Keating
Kate Lowe

Jennifer Quail
Tricia Schneider

Editing is in progress, and this promises to be a great anthology!

A Wink and a Smile (the latest in the Read on the Run anthologies) is now available everywhere, in digital format, and will be available in paperback before the end of the month. Check out the universal book link www.books2read.com/A-Wink-and-a-Smile for your favorite retailer.

Our Interview!

Jacqueline Seewald, an author of fourteen novels and hundreds of short stories, poems, essays, reviews and articles has asked to interview us on her blog, <http://jacquelineeseewald.blogspot.com/>. The interview consists of some Q&A, and people are welcome to post additional questions. Jacqueline will be posting the interview June 18, and it will remain up on her website, after that. Check it out and see what we have to say.

Calls for Submissions

At this time, Smoking Pen Press does not have any open Calls for Submissions. Stay tuned for announcements in the future.

Author Spotlight Tracy Falenwolfe

Mystery writer Tracy Falenwolfe has a story in our RotR anthology *A Bit of a Twist*. We thought you might like to know a bit about her.

Q. What is the one thing about you that would most surprise your readers?

A. Back in the '80s, I thought my goal was to become a corporate CEO. Now I can't think of anything that would have suited me less.

Q. What genres do you write in?

A. I write mystery novels. For short fiction, almost anything goes—mystery, horror, literary fiction, and some non-fiction as well.

Q. What's your favorite genre to read?

A. I love to read good mysteries. Anything from light and humorous to dark and moody. I like a little romance with my mystery, too, especially if witty banter is involved!

Q. How long have you been writing?

A. I've been writing for sixteen years. When I first started writing, I was reading a lot of romance, particularly romantic suspense, so that's what I wrote. I sent my first manuscript off to a Harlequin editor (by snail mail back then), and got a lovely response asking me to revise and resubmit the manuscript. I thought that meant it was really terrible and that she was just being nice, so I cried and threw the whole thing in the garbage. If you're a writer, you just choked on your coffee and said "what an idiot", right? That's okay. The good news is I've developed a much thicker skin over the years.

Q. How/where do you write?

A. If I'm playing music, I'm also playing Solitaire, but I will lie and say I'm writing if you ask. The work gets done in my office on a desktop computer, or in another quiet place on my laptop. I don't use writing software. I do print out my manuscript and mark it up after the first draft because I catch more mistakes on paper than I do on a screen. My plan is to write every day. I often fail. While that used to upset me, I've learned that sometimes when I can't move forward in a story it's because I'm still working out a plot point in my head. Sometimes it takes a whole day of doing something else for me to figure it out, but then I'm right back at it.

Bits and Pieces

Crime novels are now the best-selling genre in the UK. In the US, it's mystery/thriller crime... although romance is earning the most money. But if you look for the top genres in audiobooks, you'll see that #1 is "Literature & Fiction", and #2 is "Fiction & Literature". No, that's not a typo, no it doesn't make sense.

Bottom line - Read (and write) what you want!

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Merriam-Webster defines [Library](#) as "A place in which literary, musical, artistic, or reference materials (such as books, manuscripts, recordings, or films) are kept for use but not for sale."

According to the Library Map of the World, there are over two million public and school libraries on planet Earth. And that doesn't count small private libraries, and it certainly doesn't count the small bookshelf at the diner I frequent Sunday mornings, with a sign that says "free books".

Having all these libraries is a good thing.



(This is only a portion of our interview with Tracy. The entire interview (including pics!) will be posted shortly, on the Author Spotlight section of our website at www.smokingpenpress.com)

Question of the Day

Not really a question, this month, more of a collection of thoughts about editing. We've all heard the adage that you can't edit what isn't written, and in fact that's the whole idea behind National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo)... Do whatever it takes to get it on paper because **you can't edit what isn't written**. You can polish it and make it pretty later.

But the big picture is even bigger than that. Because - no matter how much time and care you take in putting your words on paper, it's still going to need editing.

I just came across a blog post (<https://www.attorneyatwork.com/self-publishing-takes-more-than-one-self/>) that quotes the line **The only page that doesn't need editing is a blank page**. The post doesn't name the source, and I've been unable to find the original source.

If you put these two ideas together, you come up with the concept that you may as well push aside worries about the final product and just write... because whatever you put down is going to need to be edited anyway.

In my search for the source of the phrase about blank pages not needing editing, I found an old interview with Jodi Picoult, author of 23 novels.

(<https://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=6524058>) Jodie said "Writer's block is for people who have the luxury of time.... if it's writing time, I write. I may write garbage, but you can always edit garbage. You can't edit a blank page."

About Us

Smoking Pen Press is a small publishing company. We mostly publish short story fiction anthologies, including our Read on the Run Series, as well as anthologies of stories that are longer... but still short!

We don't charge a submission fee or a reading fee and we do compensate our authors.

We take pride in the fact that all stories appearing in our anthologies are read at least four times, and are edited. Yet, while we make suggestions during the editing process, we work hard to not force our views on the author. The story remains the brainchild of the author; the author has the final say. (I think of it like my husband with the TV remote... I might suggest changes or new directions, but the final decision is always his!)

We like our authors, and we like to think that our authors like us. We like our readers, and we like to think they look forward to each new title we put out.