



Jen's Notes

Some of the hazards of my job include running out of tissues before I'm done reading stories and getting hand cramps from writing out checks and cards and envelopes. But it's worth all this suffering when I see the final outcome.

Putting together the Wild Women issue had its ups and downs for me. I believe wholeheartedly in the power of stories. And it's not just that I believe they have power, it's that I believe they have *so much* power that I have an incredible responsibility to help tell the stories that will literally shape the world we live in.

Granted, a few more people may need to add TulipTree to their reading list for us to see widespread, planetary results, but I believe it's always important to act as though the whole world is reading.

All that being said, it's tough "judging" stories that are clearly so heartfelt and true and sometimes painful. You'd think I'd be over the whole issue of having to reject stories (though personally I think of it as only having room to say yes to a limited number, I'm not really "rejecting" anybody), but as an editor, I think it's important for readers and writers to know that it still hurts to not be able to publish more of them.

The stories that did make it into the Wild Women issue all speak to me in different ways, but they have some important things in

common, starting with the way the female characters carry themselves despite their struggles: that is, they walk through the world like they deserve to be here. It seems like a small thing, but it's so crucial, profound even, and it makes all the difference to the bigger story, in my opinion.

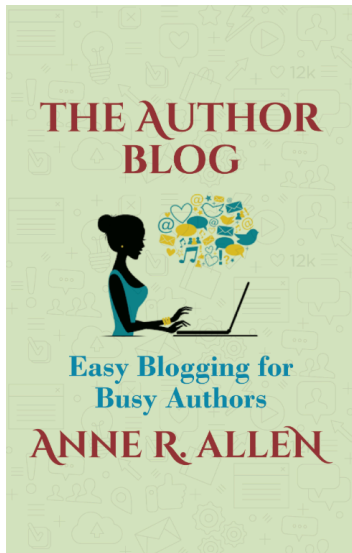
Thus the ups were inspiring and the downs were reminders that we still have a long way to go before all women can feel that way. And that's why I feel it's so important to not just inspire people, but to normalize something that should *already* be normal.

I cried a lot while I was reading entries, and I cried just as much reading the final collection all the way through. There are stories from all stages of the life cycle, from maidens to mothers to queens to crones. I hope you can feel, as one writer put it, the particular medicine offered by each one.

Now that the first new issue of *TulipTree Review* is out in the world, it's time to think about the second! A couple of the authors in this issue were first-timers, but the **New Writers** contest is specifically for people who have not yet gotten that longed-for first publishing credit. So, if that's you, I look forward to reading your story. If you know someone who needs some encouragement to try, consider getting them a gift entry as a little nudge in the right direction. I will restock my tissues and my congratulations cards and look forward to reading tons more stories that will change the world.

Featured Author Blog: Anne R. Allen

This month I'm putting a spotlight on **Anne R. Allen's blog (with Ruth Harris)**. Anne's is another great example of how authors can build a strong platform from which to sell their books. In fact, she's been so successful at it, she wrote a book on the subject that's now an Amazon best-seller. In a recent article, Anne laid out some excellent tips for writing web content that will ultimately sell more books. Here are her top 10:



1. Write grabby titles.
2. Promise a speedy read.
3. Pack your opener with essential information.
4. Make every title tweetable.
5. Use and properly format subheads.
6. Write in a light, conversational style.
7. Shorten your sentences.
8. Format all web content so it's easy to skim.
9. Choose informative anchor text for hyperlinks.
10. Keep keywords and SEO in mind, but don't lard your post with repetitions.

For more, check out the full article, "[How to Write for a Blog: 10 Tips for Writing Strong Web Content](#)," or her book, *The Author Blog: Easy Blogging for Busy Authors*.

Ready to give it a shot? Whether you have not yet launched a blog or you have and you're looking for ways to branch out, guest-blogging can be a win-win for the guest and the blog. Here are a few sites that accept guest content:

- **So Good Blog** is a food blog currently accepting guest posts on virtually all food-related topics, including weird, fascinating, or unique recipes; the latest fast food industry gossip or news; rants about foods you love or hate with a passion; posts about holiday meals including Thanksgiving and Christmas; reviews on the crunchiest and tastiest snacks and foods; or stories about your favorite food conquests. Read the [guidelines](#) before submitting.
- Channel your inner Stuart Smalley and write for [FreeAffirmations.org](#). It's as happy as it sounds, so if you have some positive affirmations to share, read their guidelines [here](#).
- **The Self-Improvement Blog** is always looking for personal self-improvement stories or original thoughts on any self-improvement topic. You can find their guidelines [here](#).
- **Inkwell Editorial** offers tons of articles about making money as a writer so it's worth a read on its own, but they also offer guest-blogging opportunities. Check out what they're looking for [here](#).

Book Giveaway

This month we're giving away a copy of the hot-off-the-press Spring/Wild Women issue of *TulipTree Review*. To win your copy, email jennifer@tuliptreepub.com by April 15th and let me know you'd like to be entered in the drawing.



Writerly Events

Orcas Island Lit Fest (Washington)

The **Orcas Island Lit Fest** is an annual celebration of literature and community held in an inspiringly beautiful place. On **April 5–7, 2019**, renowned authors and avid readers, visitors and locals, will come together for three days of panels, readings, and events that highlight the vibrant literary culture of the Pacific Northwest and beyond. OILF is a great opportunity to engage with world-class writers and their work in an intimate, inclusive setting that welcomes everyone who loves books.

Unbound Book Festival (Columbia, MO)

The **Unbound Book Festival** aims to bring nationally and internationally recognized authors of world-class renown to Columbia, Missouri, to talk about their books, their work, and their lives. Almost all events are panels or conversations between multiple authors, and involve significant time for Q&A sessions. The festival, which will take place **April 18–20, 2019**, has all manner of events planned, including the **Independent Author Fair** and a keynote address by George Saunders.

Southern Kentucky Book Fest (Bowling Green, KY)

Southern Kentucky Book Fest is one of the state's largest literary events. Its mission is to encourage literacy and the love of books in the community and beyond. SOKY Book Fest draws thousands of readers of all ages from across the U.S. who come to meet their favorite authors, purchase signed copies of their books, and learn from them in exciting panels, presentations, and workshops. The two-day event (**April 26–27, 2019**) starts with Teen & Children's Day and runs in conjunction with the **Kentucky Writers Conference**, which is free and open to the public.

Indie New Releases

Werewolf Max and the Midnight Zombies

by **N. A. Davenport**

How can you be the hero . . . if you're the monster? After a late-night encounter with a werewolf, Max finds himself thrust into a frightening world he never knew existed. Mysterious and powerful banshees, fierce and terrible werewolves, and mobs of mindless zombies lurk in the dark. Max must fight the dangers that threaten his home, but can he defeat the monster within himself? *Werewolf Max and the Midnight Zombies* is available for pre-order on Kindle now and will release for Kindle and paperback on April 30th.



Timothy Mean and the Time Machine

by **William Ford**

With Timothy Mean's amazing imagination and time machine, anything and anywhere are possible! Join Timothy on a magical rhyming adventure as he skips through time and pranks with pirates, gets daring with dragons, and even teases a T-Rex!

"It's Monday. Hip hip hooray! Where shall we travel in time today?"
With Timothy Mean, every day is a rhyme in time!

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