



TulipMail *newsletter*

February 2019

Jen's Notes

I knew it would be a good thing to try some new ideas for TulipTree this year and have some fun, but I didn't know just how much fun it could be. And it's only February! Which, if you hadn't heard, is officially Wild Women Month. You still have a few days left to enter the first annual **Wild Women story contest** for *TulipTree Review*!

I was first introduced to the idea of the Wild Woman spirit by Clarissa Pinkola Estés in *Women Who Run with the Wolves*, and I've come across a plethora of women's groups that embody a similar spirit. Whether they are modern-day feminists or practicing ancient traditions that respect women's wisdom, I have admiration for all of them.

And speaking of admiration, the three women featured in this month's issue of the newsletter are ones I have a ton for, as well as gratitude.

I've known them for about a decade and met all of them via Northern Colorado Writers. Kerrie founded the NCW Conference and then the organization. She's not only a talented author, she's also a tireless supporter of other writers, and she created a truly positive environment for writers at all stages of their writing journeys.

Part of that included introducing people to critique groups, for which she enlisted the help of Pat Stoltey. Pat organized several

groups, including the first one I ever joined, and taught us the ropes. She demonstrated for us the crucial art form of both giving and receiving constructive criticism on each other's writing. Those skills and the lasting friendships of a good critique group have truly shaped who I am as a person. I can't imagine what life would be like without them.

I met Lynn via such a group, and I've been a fan of her writing since our first email exchange. She has the rare talent of making me cry, like, *every time* I read an essay or story of hers. She has that intuitive writer's soul that comes through in earnest in her writing, and I hope that I can be more like her when I grow up.

Kerrie, Pat, and Lynn are all Wild Women in my book, and I think it's safe to say that you wouldn't be reading this newsletter—because it wouldn't exist—without my having known them.

Finally, I hope you've been reading the Story of the Week. This month each story is a Wild Woman story, and since I think every woman is innately wild, the stories are quite varied. I love stories about people who don't play by the rules or dance to anyone else's tune. Some are inspiring, some whimsical, and some may force us to rethink our stereotypical view of how a woman "should" be. It strikes me that this search for meaning in life is hard enough, why do it in a straitjacket? It's so much more fun to be wild!

Featured Author Blog: Patricia Stoltey

PATRICIA STOLTEY is the author of two amateur sleuth mysteries, one thriller, and one historical novel of frontier fiction. *Wishing Caswell Dead* was a finalist for a 2018 Colorado Book Award and was recently released in a large-print edition. A short story called “Good Work for a Girl” will be in the November 2019 Five Star anthology of pioneer women tales, *The Spoilt Quilt and Other Stories*.



Pat lives in Northern Colorado with her husband and two furry critters, Sassy Dog and Katie Cat. She has an author page on Facebook where she shares owl photos, book news, and other fun stuff (<https://www.facebook.com/PatStoltey/>); is on Twitter as @PStoltey (<https://twitter.com/PStoltey>); and is a monthly contributor to the Blood-Red Pencil Blog (<https://bloodredpencil.blogspot.com/2019/02/romancing-what.html>).

Pat’s blog often features guest posts from other authors. Below is a recently published bit of inspiration.

Two Are Better Than One: Tips for a Successful Co-Author Partnership

by Kerrie Flanagan

When you meet the one, it all falls into place. You no longer have to carry the burden alone. The workload is shared, you encourage each other through the tough times and celebrate successes together. With the right partner, co-authoring can be an incredible experience that fuses the synergy and talents of two writers into creating one cohesive book.

About a year ago, I was talking with my writing friend Chuck. One of us (I don’t remember who) brought up the idea of writing something together. We both got excited and started discussing what we should write. He typically writes fantasy novels, and I write nonfiction, short fiction, and children’s books. Even our writing styles were (and still are) worlds apart, but that didn’t stop us. We both felt this could work. Not because of what we had written in the past, but because of us: our personalities, work ethic, and most of all, our ability to trust one another to get the job done right.

We took a strategic approach when choosing a genre to write and researched the top-selling self-published books. According to Author Earnings, in 2017 romance had the second highest number of ebooks sold, right below literature and fiction. We also learned that romance readers go through books like potato chips, self-published authors in this genre do well, and series sell better than single titles. It wasn't long before we decided to commit to a three-book romantic comedy series, under the pen name *C.K. Wiles*, to see what would happen.

We fell easily into a system that works for us. Chuck and I brainstorm the story idea together, which is a fun, creative part of the process. Next, Chuck creates a detailed outline of the story that we go over together to make sure everything is there. He then takes off and starts writing. After he gets a few chapters completed, he begins sending them to me. I go through to add more emotion, fill in any holes in the storyline, and tighten the writing. Once he has sent me everything, I send the edited chapters back to him so he can make final adjustments, and we talk through any areas that need more work. We both read it through one more time before sending the finished manuscript to a copy editor.

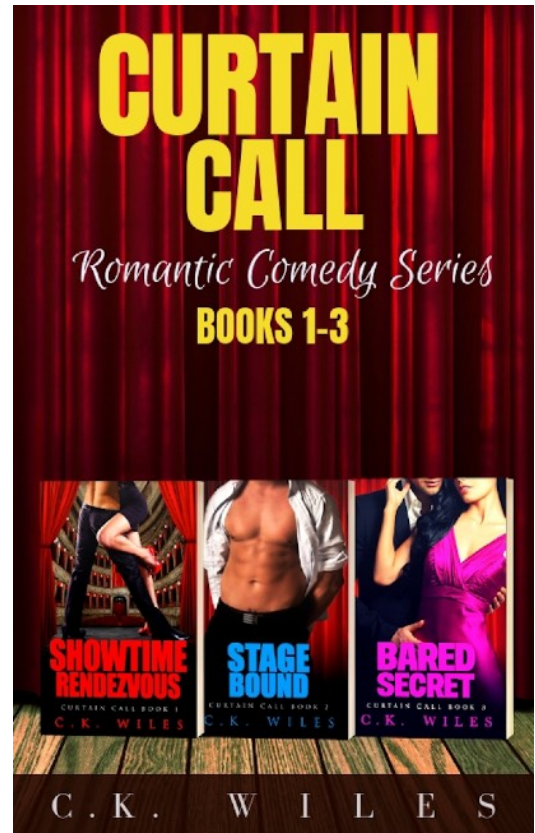
While our writing system has made the process smooth, we found many components that make a co-author partnership successful.

Know Your Strengths

Each writer brings his/her own strengths to each book project. Figure those out early and embrace them. This is less about making sure tasks are equally divided and more about working with your strengths to ensure you publish the best book possible. Chuck is a fast fiction writer and not a fan of developmental editing. I am a slow fiction writer, but I love taking a rough draft of a manuscript and molding it into a great story. This works well for us, and we can typically get a book finished in a little over two months. When it comes to the publishing aspects, I take the lead on that since I have experience in that area. We hire out the covers and copy editing, but I am able to format the books (print and ebook) and upload them into the various platforms.

Trust Each Other

Find someone you respect as a writer and are confident in their skills. Chuck and I knew each other for years and provided feedback and critiques on each other's work. I value his opinion and suggestions with my writing, so I knew before forming this partnership that I could work with him



and vice-versa. When it comes to co-authoring, this trust is crucial. You have to be confident that you and your partner have the same goals and visions for the book. Then allow each other the freedom to make changes and adjustments to produce the best book possible. There will be times when you disagree, and that's okay. Talk through them and come up with a solution you can both live with.

Leave Your Ego at the Door

When you are working with a co-author, you have to let go of your ego. The whole goal is to create a book you are both proud of and are happy to have your name (or pen name) associated with. Chuck and I have different writing styles, but with our co-authored books, our writing melds together to create a new, unique voice. It is not about "this is mine" and "that is yours," it is seeing it as "ours." If we got caught up in claiming different parts as our own or not being willing to work as a team to create the best book possible, we wouldn't get anything finished.

Because of our effective partnership, we achieved our goal of publishing three books in our **Curtain Call** series. We have enjoyed our co-author experience so much, we are moving forward together with other writing projects as we work to market our series and get those books into the hands of readers. Co-authoring can be amazing with the right person. If this is something that interests you, take the time to find another writer you trust, one whose strengths and weaknesses compliment yours and one who is okay with checking egos at the door. Then you will enjoy a compatible relationship where you can create literary art as one.

BONUS: As a thank-you, [click here](#) for a free digital copy of *Showtime Rendezvous*.



KERRIE FLANAGAN is an accomplished freelance writer with over 20 years' experience. She is thrilled to be writing romantic comedies with her favorite writing partner, Chuck Harrelson. Together, under the pen name **C.K. Wiles**, they are the authors of *Showtime Rendezvous*, *Stage Bound*, and *Bared Secret*. Watch for their new urban fantasy and sci-fi books coming out this year under the pen name C.G. Harris.

In addition, Kerrie is the author of *Writer's Digest Guide to Magazine Article Writing* and creator of *Magazine Writing Blueprint*, along with eight other books published under her imprint, **Hot Chocolate Press**.

You can listen to this episode of the *Stark Reflections Podcast* where Chuck and Kerrie talk more about their co-author experiences.

Be a Guest Blogger!

Pat's personal blog (<http://patriciastolteybooks.com>) is open for guests! She's looking for posts related to writing and the writing life, so almost any family-friendly topic works. If an author has a great travel/research piece and photos that tie in to one of the author's novels (especially a new release), she'd love to have it. A photo essay about your best procrastination efforts? That works. Want to write about your successful plan for outlining or organizing your schedule? Absolutely. A hate piece about Twitter? Maybe . . . but no politics and no cussing. Always remember, family friendly.

Length is flexible, but 500–800 words is best (in Word). Send photos and the author photo separately as .jpg attachments, not embedded in the post. Include a short bio with links to website/blog and social media. Include links to buy your book(s) if you're already published. Contact Pat directly at patriciastoltey@yahoo.com for more information or to schedule a guest-post date.



Contributor News

LYNN CARLSON is both the editor of and a contributor to one of TulipTree's books for a cause, *Watch My Rising: A Recovery Anthology*.

You have seen my descent.

Now watch my rising.

—Rumi

And rise we have, as chronicled in the stories and poems that make up this anthology. Our goal is to share the stories of people in recovery from addiction. Because of stigma, their stories haven't been told nearly enough.

May these words provide readers with a new view and show the world the reality of recovery.

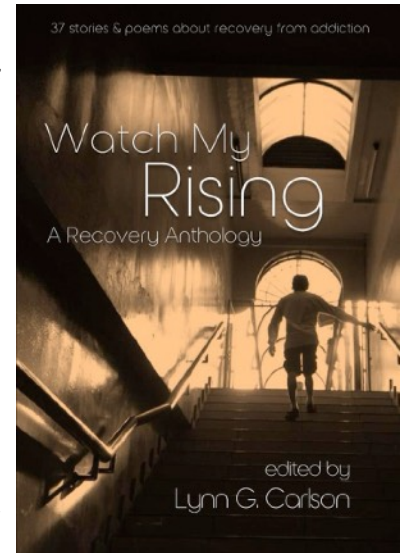
Proceeds from the sale of this anthology benefit programs and services offered by Recover Wyoming. Learn more at recoverwyoming.org.



Editor Lynn Carlson reads from Watch My Rising at the launch party in Cheyenne, Wyoming.

Book Giveaway

For this month's giveaway, we'd love to send someone a free copy of *Watch My Rising*. If you'd like to win the free copy, just email jennifer@tuliptreepub.com and let me know you'd like to be entered in the drawing.



Our Cranky, Crazy Tribe

by Lynn G. Carlson

I collect quotes, especially quotes by writers. As I read through the notebook where I scribbled or cut-and-taped these quotes, I am struck by what a colorful, irascible bunch of humans we writers are.

Reading these quotes makes me laugh, and also has me thinking even on my most disgruntled days—at least I'm in excellent company!

You think I'm making this up? Here's a sampling:

"Here is a lesson in creative writing. First rule: Do not use semicolons. They are transvestite hermaphrodites representing absolutely nothing. All they do is show you've been to college."

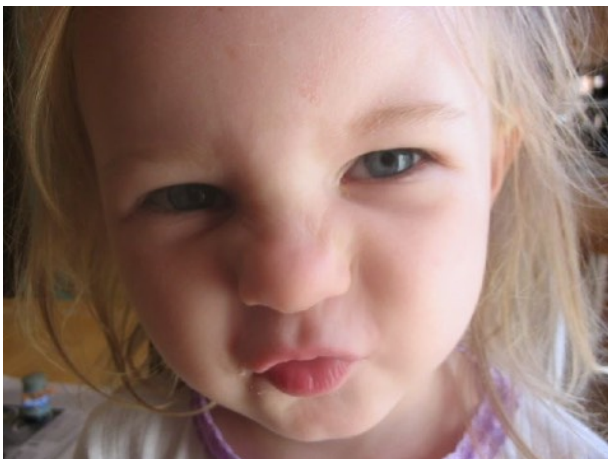
—Kurt Vonnegut

"You're miserable, edgy and tired. You're in the perfect mood for journalism." —Warren Ellis

"A story is not a carrier pigeon with a message clamped to its leg." —David Madden

"Having your book turned into a movie is like seeing your oxen turned into a bouillon cube."

—John Le Carre



"Human language is a cracked kettle on which we beat out tunes for bears to dance to when all the while we want to move the stars to pity."

—Gustave Flaubert

"If I had to give young writers advice, I'd say don't listen to writers talking about writing."

—Lillian Hellman

"No passion in the world is equal to the passion to alter someone else's draft." —H.G. Wells

So, if today you find yourself frustrated, grumpy, sharp-tongued, or short-tempered . . . welcome to the tribe!

Writerly Events

Wyoming Writers Conference (Laramie, Wyoming)

The 45th annual Wyoming Writers Conference will be June 7–9 at the Marian H. Rochelle Gateway Center in Laramie, Wyoming, home of the University of Wyoming. The conference features workshops in poetry, fiction, nonfiction, and self-publishing as well as agent and editor pitch sessions, critique roundtables, and open mic nights. Participating writers include Brad Watson (fiction and keynote speaker), Tasha Alexander, Andrew Grant (fiction), Jovan Mays (poetry), and Page Lambert (nonfiction). Participating publishing professionals include Stephanie Hansen (Metamorphosis Literary Agency), Angie Hodapp (Kristen Nelson Literary Agency), and Eric Campbell (editor of Down and Out Books). Registration opens on March 1, and the conference fee is \$235 until May 1 (\$275 thereafter) and includes a one-year membership to Wyoming Writers, Inc. The host hotel is the Holiday Inn with rooms available at \$104 per night. Visit www.wyowriters.org or write to wyowriters@gmail.com for more information.

Wordplay from The Loft (Minneapolis, MN)

The Loft's **Wordplay** will launch in May of 2019 and aims to be Minnesota's largest celebration of readers, writers, and great books. Imagine a weekend full of famous authors and celebrated books; a weekend of readings, conversations, workshops, kids' activities, demonstrations, and one-of-a-kind happenings with outdoor stages, cooking stages, book signings, quiet reading corners, boisterous parties, food trucks, beer tents, and books, books, books.

There will be something for every reader at Wordplay. Whether your book club reads literary fiction or paranormal zombie romance, whether you get your books at your library or on your e-reader, or even if the last book you read was a movie, this festival will be for you. Wordplay's mission is to celebrate the ways in which people connect to and through words and welcomes anyone who shares a belief in the connective power of story. Registration opens in March.

Thanks for reading! *We'd love to hear from you, so if you would like to be our featured author with a blog, have a cool writerly event people should know about, want to promote your new indie-published book, or have other ideas for newsletter content, questions about TulipTree or its contests or publications, or comments in general, send them to jennifer@tuliptreepub.com.*

Contributors and Future Contributors:

If you have been published in a TulipTree collection or on the website, please send your news to jennifer@tuliptreepub.com.

To be a future contributor, check out www.tuliptreepub.com for currently open calls for submissions!