



THE MANA SUNSET

The Newsletter for All Writers February 10, 2013

Welcome to the Third Issue of THE MANA SUNSET

MANA is Now on Pinterest!

Yes, now MarketingNewAuthors.com is on Pinterest. MANA invites you to visit!



WINNERS OF THE 2012 PROSE AND POETRY CONTESTS

In 2012, MANA launched two writing contests: THE MANA Sunrise Writer's Contest and The Passion for Poetry Poet's Contest. These two contests made a call for book manuscripts of prose or poetry, about 8,000 words or more. MANA wants to showcase the winners. So, in this issue they agreed to an interview.

First, meet The Passion for Poetry Poet's Contest Winner, Ms. Jessyca Mathews, author of SIMPLY: A COLLECTION OF POEMS.

**ISN'T IT TIME YOU ENTER
THE
MANA 2013 WINTER WRITER'S CONTEST?**

DEADLINE: MARCH 10, 2013

SUBMISSION FEE: \$5.00 per entry

Pay at: <http://www.marketingnewauthors.com/writerscontests.html>

SUBMISSION ITEMS:

Short Stories or Poetry

25 to no more than 3,000 words per entry

**SUBMIT a Word or PDF File to:
info@marketingnewauthors.com**



1) Jessyca, how did you become a poet?

I started writing poetry in high school. There was a literary magazine, THE CAL-LIOPE, that was published for the students and staff. I decided to send in some of my work senior year, and ended up winning the writing award for the senior class. From that point on, I wrote poetry whenever the mood struck me.

2) What influenced you to write your poetry?

My mother is a key reason that I became a poet. She was the one who always had me to read when I was young. She always gave me poetry books to read, especially African-American writers. She also was the one who encouraged me to keep a journal so that I could share my thoughts. I started writing my thoughts in there when I was in fifth grade. That lead to my poetry writings in high school, journal writings throughout college, to my writings now. Writing is my therapy.

3) Is there a poem that is your favorite? Why?

To choose one poem is way too difficult! I love the elements of certain poems. The diction and syntax of "Do Not Go Gentle Into That Good Night" by Dylan Thomas gives me chills each time I hear it. The first poems that I recited and loved due to the themes are "Incident" by Contee Cullen and "We Real Cool" by Gwendolyn Brooks. Langston Hughes is my favorite poet of all time, because his poem "Theme for English B" was my life in high school in the suburbs. Mary Elizabeth Frye's "Do Not Stand at My Grave and Weep" is close to my heart. I read it at my grandmother's funeral a year ago. My favorite poetry collection book is by Nikki Giovanni, she is my black female poetry hero.

4) Have you been published before or is this your first time? If you have been published before, what is the name of your first publication?

This is my first time being published, and, hopefully, not the last. It has been my goal since elementary school to become a well-known author. My father reminded me of that wish after I told him the news that I

won the contest and would have my own poetry collection. I did win honorable mention in a contest through Great American for a mini classroom makeover around four years ago. It was a poem about what I would change in my work environment. Now that I have become a published author I am going to write about many different parts of my life for the world to read.

5) Are you working on another manuscript of poetry, now?

I have begun working on a couple of manuscripts. I have been inspired to write another collection of poetry, and I also finished my book on deciding to have bariatric gastric banding surgery. It's called 318, and it is about the struggles, successes, and changes in deciding to have Lapband surgery. I am hoping to find a publisher for that work very soon.

6) What advice would you give to other writers who are not sure whether to enter any writing contest?

The main statement that I would say to someone thinking about entering contests is "You can't win if you don't try." So many people spend time wishing they could become a writer, but it don't go pass that point. Take on the challenge of contests, send in your work, and things might work out. It can end up being one of the best things to happen to you. Having "Simply" published is truly a dream come true for me, and I am glad that I took that chance and entered MANA's contest.

There are three winners for the Sunrise Writer's Contest.

The First Prize Winner is Richard S. Rose, author of DID YOU EVER TRY TO MELT A LEMON DROP? AND OTHER TALES OF LIFE SEEN THROUGH ROSE-COLORED GLASSES.



1) Dick, how did you become a writer?

I became interested in High School, and just continued writing. I became a Navy Journalist and continued writing.

2) What influenced you to write your collection of short stories?

I had a Creative Writing emphasis while working on my post-graduate degree.

2) Is there a short story that is your favorite? Why?

"More Than Love is Larry," because, despite its downbeat ending, it is an experiment in sequential points of view. (That's one written by me.) Otherwise De Maupessant's "The Necklace."

3) Which one of the short stories that you have in the work you submitted to MANA is your favorite?

I listed the wrong title of my favorite-

It's "Point of View" (The alternate title of "More than Love is Larry." I haven't decided which title I like more.)

4) If you have been published before, what is the name of your first publication?

Moveable Forts & Magazines: A Novel of Vietnam, which was my Masters Thesis. It was printed by AuthorHouse in 2001, and reprinted as Tarnished Brass Curtain: A Novel of Vietnam, in 2011, printed by CreateSpace.

5) So, are you working on any other collection of short stories or a long novel?

No. I just self-published Vietnam Through Rose-colored Glasses through Create Space in December. That was a collection of commentaries, editorials, newsletter articles, doggerel verse from Saigon, and a couple of short stories. I still hold all the rights. I'll have to check to see if either was in the manuscript I sent you.

6) What advice would you give to other writers who are not sure whether to enter a writing contest?

If the fees aren't too high, enter. "Tarnished Brass Curtain" was a co-winner in the 2011 Indie Excellence Awards, in the Military Fiction Category.

The Second Prize Winner is Ms. Carrie Mattern, author of IT'S ALL ABOUT JANE: A NOVELLA.

1) Carrie, how did you become a writer?

Ultimately I became a writer because my parents highlighted reading in my life. As a child I remember heading to the Flint Public Library or Genesee District library on every other Saturday with my mom and brother; we were allowed to choose two books to take home and read. It was the highlight of my week unless it was dad's turn and we got to go out to breakfast with him! I also recall seeing my dad read the Flint Journal every night in his recliner. He would get home from working at Coca-Cola, eat dinner, and then recline back in his chair to catch up on the news of the day. These memories both allude to role models in my life reading, and with much importance on reading, so be-

gins the next step of writing. I kept journals from a very early age, and now my second grade daughter reads them. She keeps her own as well. The emergence of a writer begins in the home with parents and guardians that focus on reading every day.



2) What influenced you to write your novella?

My novella has been a story in the making for quite some time. I've always wanted to write something for my students since I teach at the high school level. True events did loosely inspire the tale, but the purpose was not to provide truth in why suicide happens, but to illuminate that what adolescents say and what they do has immediate repercussions with life lasting effects that may touch more people than they ever realize. As the mother of a young girl who is facing the mean girl stuff at school, and as the sponsor of a bullying awareness group (Empathy for All) at Carman-Ainsworth High School, I understand the impact bullies have on children each day. What many adults today fail to realize is that suicide tends to be the last resort that wasn't caused by bullying, but a culmination of issues that went unnoticed or untreated for a long time.

3) Have you been published before or is this your first time? If you have been published before, what is the name of your first publication?

SAMANTHA HAS TO MOVE was the name of my very first publication. I was in sixth grade at South Bendle Elementary. This probably in-

spired my career as an author, and not an artist. The illustrations are terrible! My first adult publication was PAPA, WHY DOES THE WIND BLOW, a children's book about my dad and daughter, Claire. It was an assignment for a publishing class at The University of Michigan-Flint that I ended up giving to my dad as a gift. A year later, as a surprise, my mom and dad self-published it for me using Author House as an avenue. Additionally, I have published WELCOME, LITTLE LEO through the same company. It is the story of my son, Leo, and his birth set to a fairy tale genre. What sets it apart from the first children's story is that my friend and local graphic designer, Rebecca Bodzick, illustrated it from her home in Flushing so we were able to work collaboratively which few authors have the opportunity to do with illustrators. My family and friends have been an integral part of my journey into an additional career as an author.

4) Are you working on another manuscript, now?

Currently, I am awaiting final illustrations on my third children's book, THE MAGICIAN'S DAUGHTER. Tanner Shay, my brother who resides in Long Beach, California, is working on the Tim Burton style graphics to accompany the tale. The story involves a young girl, Magnolia, and her father, The Magician, in the 1930s. The mother has passed away, and her father works as a magician to make ends meet. Magnolia recognizes magic as a scam, and doesn't understand why it is so loved and believed by the people. She cannot grasp the importance of it until one day...well, you will have to read it and find out. Coming soon to book stores near you!

5) What advice would you give to other writers who are not sure whether to enter a writing contest?

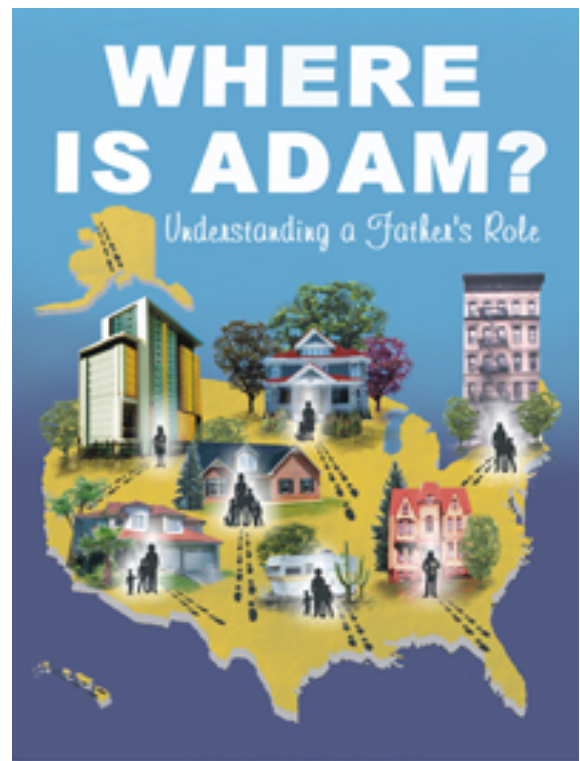
The best piece of advice I can provide to writers old and new would be to just write. Face the fear. I am scared most of the time that I write. Scared of the rejection from publishers, scared of the truth that may seep into the fiction, scared of the judgement readers will place on you after reading your work, and scared of what the process will be if, and that is a big if,

someone thinks my work is good enough. What I have realized the past few years is that my fears pale in comparison to the disappointment I would feel if I did not write for myself, for my children, and for my students. If I let stories slip by that I want people to remember, to hear, and to feel, then that is true rejection. If I allow my fear to control my decisions about writing, then I am letting myself down. So do not dismiss a contest just because you are afraid, and do not let fear talk you out of writing that manuscript. In turn, use the fear as your motivation.

In the next issue, MANA will ask these questions of the Third Prize Winner, Sara Jamal, author of THE AMERICAN EXPERIMENT.

So, be sure to read the 4th issue in April

MEET A MANA AUTHOR, JEFF WHEELER



JEFF WHEELER

In the 2nd issue, MANA interviewed its author Randy Grimes, author of THE ADVENTURES OF A MIDDLE-AGED MAN. In this issue, MANA has interviewed another of its authors—Jeff Wheeler. Jeff Wheeler is author of WHERE IS ADAM: UNDERSTANDING A FATHER'S ROLE. Wheeler is a retired police officer of the Flint [MI] Police Dept., owner of one of the largest martial arts studios in the Flint area, Ass't Minister, Mentor, Husband, and Father.

1) What motivated you to write WHERE IS ADAM?

I witnessed hundreds, if not thousands of our children making terrible decisions. These would be decisions that would have long-lasting effects on their lives, even to the point where their lives were cut short. Why was this happening? From my perspective, it was the family structure, or lack thereof. It's safe to say that 90% of the children that I dealt with, there was no father figure, and, increasingly, mothers were becoming more scarce, leaving their children to be raised by grandparents, other family members, and even the State. According to a local Circuit Judge, "This book is long over due."

2) What was the biggest challenge?

The biggest challenge of writing this book was actually making the time and sitting down and writing it

3) What help, if any, did you receive from the publisher?

MANA was a godsend to me. Its staff was informative, timely, and very knowledgeable about the industry. I am pleased with what they have done for WHERE IS ADAM: UNDERSTANDING A FATHER'S ROLE.

Thank You, Author Jeff Wheeler!

This space is for you if you want to place an ad for your publication or services that can serve small publishers and authors. The ads can be quite affordable. Call MANA for details at 734-975-0028 or email MANA at: info@marketingnewauthors.com.