

The MANA Sunset *October 2014 edition*



In This Edition:

Happy October! This special edition of the MANA Sunset will feature the works of several of MANA's current authors. These sneak peeks allow you, as a reader of the MANA Sunset, to get a feel for the works being published right now.

Enjoy!

MANA 2015 Passion For Poetry Poet Contest

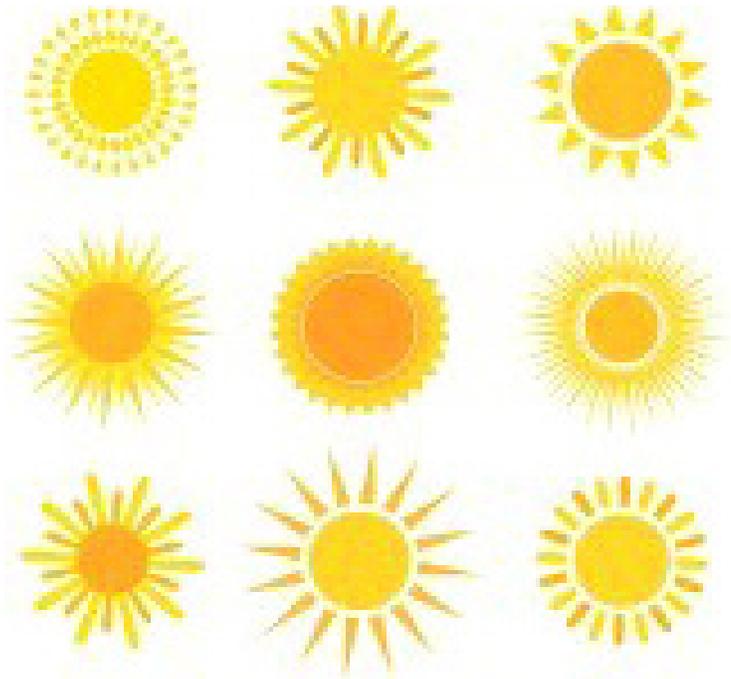
MANA's annual contest selects one winner from all applicants. Submissions must include between 50 to 150 poems in order to be eligible. The winner will receive a free publication of his/her manuscript, as well as a free year of marketing. The copyright to the collection will remain in the hands of the poet. Elesia Powell, a poet featured in this edition, won the 2014 contest with her collection, *Sweet Ache: Poetry of the Soul*. For more info, visit marketingnewauthors.biz.

Book Debuts

Della Frye submitted her collection of poetry and short stories -- *Della's Writings* -- during MANA's call for Senior Writers. Since her work has been published, Ms. Frye has passed away. In memory of her and her lovely writing, we've included two poetry selections from her book:

DAYLIGHT IS BREAKING

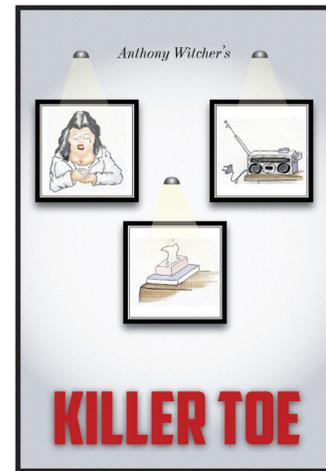
Daylight is breaking this hour
Morning dew is shining through
All the petals of each pretty flower
Are kissed by the morning dew
A new day is dawning
Life is waking up and yawning
To the sweetness of the air
Life is good on the wings of prayer
So why not start today, all anew
And be nice to somebody close to you
Let life be fresh as the morning dew
Blessings will be yours
All the day through.



BRING ON THE SUNSHINE

Bring on the sunshine
Bring it on with a smile
Bring on the laughter
For a little while
Make life worth living
Don't give into a sigh
You'll receive what you're giving
So hold your head up high
Bring it on for a while
The sunshine follows your smile
And it's always in style
So bring on the sunshine
Bring on the sun
Bring on the sunshine
Sunshine.

Anthony Witcher's book, *The Killer Toe*, involves a female protagonist working in a morgue. She battles with ideas of right and wrong, love and redemption. While working in the dim lighting of the morgue, this young woman struggles through a tough break up. Despite being surrounded daily by the silent deceased --reminded of her own mortality -- it is her life in the world of the living that gives her pain and heartbreak. Through the Killer Toe of one of her clients, the protagonist's former boyfriend learns a valuable life lesson about how to treat others!



Grammar Wisdom

The Comma of Direct Address

*You must use a comma (s) when directly addressing someone in a sentence.

For example: "Hello, Marjorie."

OR: "I thank you kindly, Mr. Smith,
for coming here this evening."

OR: "Sir Jeffrey, you are a horrible man."

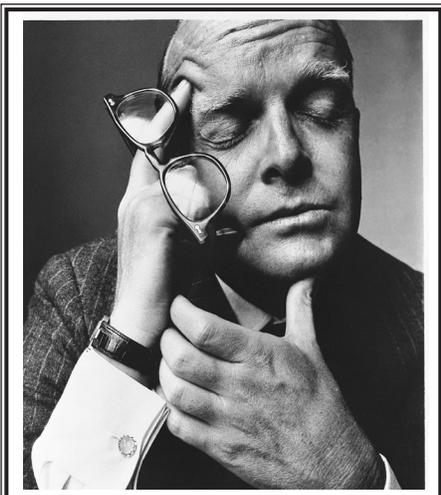
**The rules don't change even when the addressee's name is in the middle of the sentence, at the beginning of the sentence, or the end of the sentence.

Let's eat grandma!



Let's eat, grandma!

**PUNCTUATION
SAVES LIVES!**



Quote of the Month

"I believe more in the scissors
than I do in the pencil."

-Truman Capote

Elesia Powell won the 2014 MANA Passion for Poetry Poet Contest with her book *Sweet Ache: Poetry of the Soul*. In the spirit of this newsletter's selections from our various authors' works, one of Ms. Powell's poems is included below. Before winning the contest last year, Ms. Powell had already enjoyed success as a poet when she won a Hopwood Award from the University of Michigan some time ago. Her collection is available for purchase on the MANA website.

Sweet Ache

Surrounded by the beauty of lush valleys,
The tropical breezes blow large green leaves,
Exposing the fruit hidden beneath.
I choose the just ripe
Mango, papaya, and star fruit;
I slice them into jars,
The mango and papaya in the center,
The star fruit toward the outer edges of the jars.
I fill each one with coconut water and sugar.
I want it so sweet
That their teeth will ache,
Like my insides do from wanting you.
I seal the jars and tie them with a bright ribbon
Before I take them to market to sell.
I call it Sweet Ache,
Homemade love in a bottle
With all I have for you
Locked in these jars.
Only the tourists buy my treats.
The natives hear my solitary songs in the night and
Make wide steps around me.
My own voice returns as an echo in darkness,
Sweet Ache I call out,
Homemade love in a bottle.
With each jar sold,
I pray my aching will end.
I return to the valley with Sweet Ache lingering,
Along with the sugar that creases my fingers.
The rain falls on my zinc roof,
Each drop ringing a thousand small bells,
Just a little more sugar.
Sweet Ache.



Upcoming Book Debuts

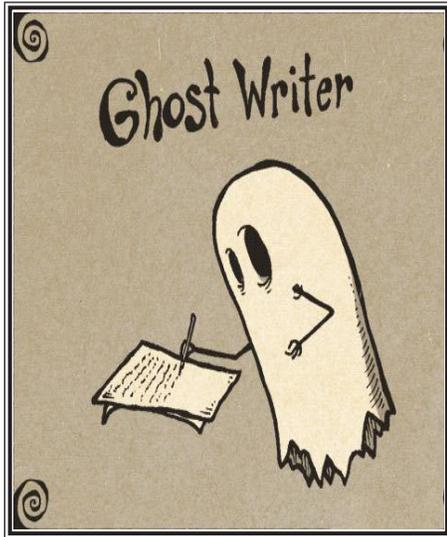
Sarah McChristian, one of MANA's senior writers, will release her book, *The 2 of Me*, in early October. According to the author, she feels her work is spiritually-inspired. Look for the book on MANA's website, marketingnewauthors.com.

Cherisa Allen's book -- *Revelation, Restoration, Resignation* -- will make its official debut at a book reading, signing, and performance by Ms. Allen at Dawn Farm on Saturday, November 8th from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. The program is called *Dramatic Readings in the Round: Empowering Women to Break Every Chain*. All are welcome; come hear Ms. Allen's message and get your copy of her book signed. Her story is compelling. It is a story for all who care to support those affected by substance, sexual, and domestic abuse

"Throughout my journey I have realized that life really isn't fair. The battle is not given to the strongest, the race is not always given to the fastest, but what happens is God gives his most difficult battles to those he knows will endure to the end. This was a hard lesson to learn and it wasn't until I was writing this book that I began to fully embrace this thought pattern."

"For so many years I have been wondering and walking around in Egypt (so to speak). I spent so much of my life living for others when they never asked me to. I have spent many years looking at the faces of the people trying to decipher what their facial expressions were saying about me; ignoring the assignment that was given to me. I spent a lot of time being the victim and playing the victim role that I honestly forgot who I was and whose I was. I was on the run because being honest, being transparent, telling the truth was something that I just could not bring myself to do it was easier being someone else; it was easier solving the problems of the world without telling my story."

Russ Grimes will release a children's sequel -- *The Continuing Adventures of a Middle-Aged Man* -- by the December holidays. Mr. Grimes' first book, *The Adventures of a Middle-Aged Man*, tells the story of an ordinary man's journey from average Joe to super hero. This classic adventure trope is sure to delight all readers -- both young and old. Look for the book on MANA's website in December!



Creating a Strong Character: A Letter from the Editor

As a student intern at MANA, I've produced this bi-weekly newsletter for the past nine months. In addition to my work with MANA, I do freelance editing and write short stories. While editing, I often consider just how important it is to establish characters. I decided to share my own thoughts on character development in this newsletter. A short story or novel needs, in my

personal opinion, two to four really, really well-developed characters. Though many stories contain more, those two or three solid characters hold a reader's attention and make the reader care. Here are my five tips for developing strong characters in prose:

- 1) Don't let them run around naked. So often the basics are forgotten during the writing process. Make sure your characters are described as wearing a fur coat, tatty old blue jeans, or even a snow-suit. Clothing can give little clues away about a character's social status, personality, or even his/her place in history.
- 2) Go deeper than hair and eye color. Writers commonly focus on the basics when describing characters -- "She stood there with green eyes, chestnut hair." Though that's a perfectly good description of a woman, it doesn't make her stand out or stick in a person's mind. Give your characters crooked teeth, birthmarks, scars, or tattoos of their mothers' names. In short, make them memorable.
- 3) Motivation is key. Stories that bombard us with a switch in tone or a drastic action done by a main character can leave a reader feeling slighted and distrustful of the narrator. Everyone has a history to tell, and that history makes people react to situations in particular ways. You don't have to be blatant (a nun that prays all the time) but make sure the character's actions are somewhat in line with what you've established about what motivates him/her.
- 4) Give them an ugly side. We don't always have to love characters. In fact, flaws endear characters to people. Iago from *Othello* remains one of my favorite characters of all time. Though Iago was an evil man, there's an implication that he wasn't always a villain. No one is perfect. Writing characters with flaws and imperfections makes them human and believable.
- 5) Imagine your character walking past you on the sidewalk. Can you? Once you are able to envision your fictitious character, they become a person in a story you get to write.

Happy Writing!