

# *The MANA Sunset*

*December 2017 Issue*

## *In This Issue:*

Happy Holidays from MANA! This month we feature the work of Taylor Rouse, Ashley Orebaugh and JonaRose Brooks. It's the season of giving, so don't forget to get in the spirit and give to others. We've also included some information about what business opportunities MANA is currently offering. Enjoy this month's issue--and Happy Writing!



## *Lost Ones by Taylor Rouse*

I am lost. I hang my head down low because the dizziness of this world is just too much to handle and constantly leaves me with bad migraines. I search deep inside myself for the answers that just seem too impossible to solve like: how do I stay true to myself? Or, do I allow the world to push me so hard to the point where I have no choice, but to get involved? It's all too much.

Living is like being trapped under a thick sheet of ice, and, no matter how hard I pound on it, there comes a point where I just have to accept the fact that, to the outsiders looking in, I'm nothing but a pure nuisance that is constantly overlooked. Little do they know that I have feelings, too, and I'm talented, but even my talents and feelings seem like an inconvenience to this game called life. I can pretend that I'm okay, but even breathing while cold ice sits on my chest and consumes my heart becomes harder to do.

So, I wait and lay on the cold, hard ground waiting for the Earth to decide to swallow me whole, just so I don't have to make the hard decision of choosing what to do. How long before someone else notices that I'm broken? I want to give up so bad, but I hear that's what lost ones do. Though, the question is: Even if I'm condemned as lost, do I not deserve love too?

## *The Wave by Ashley Orebaugh*

Ashley took off her pink sandals and ran through the sweltering sand. She tiptoed into the water, giggling as a wave crashed against her legs. She looked back at the multicolored umbrella and waved at her mother, who was getting a much-needed suntan. Her mother smiled and waved with two fingers, holding a sandwich in one hand and a bottle of ice cold lemonade in the other.

Suddenly, a giant wave came and swept Ashley off her feet, making her plunge into the water. She tried to scream but swallowed a gulp of salty water instead. She did not know which way was up and which was down. Her sweeping hand touched a creature with a sharp claw in the sand. She screamed bubbles and tried hard to swim. The wave receded, dumping the startled girl upon the soft, wet beach. Ashley coughed and rubbed her eyes, struggling to get back up. Grains of sand in her yellow swimsuit scratched against her skin. She glanced back toward her mother, who was standing up with a worried frown partly covered by her sunglasses. Ashley laughed and raced back to the big umbrella, tiptoeing through the hot sand, smelling of salt and seaweed.



# *Quote of the Month*

“your art  
is not about how many people  
like your work  
your art  
is about  
if your heart likes your work  
if your soul likes your work  
it’s about how honest  
you are with yourself  
and you  
must never  
trade honesty  
for relatability”

*~Rupi Kaur~*

*Help by JonaRose Brooks*

As darkness enters,  
All the light recedes,  
The feeling of the end,  
Dark cold world.

Bring back the light,  
Bring back the day,  
The feeling of relief,  
Bright happy days.

Does anyone know this feeling? Empty  
lost and alone, Needing to be alone,  
Needing help.

## *Become a MANA Affiliate!*

Are you an entrepreneur who needs a potential way of earning funds to support your entrepreneurship?

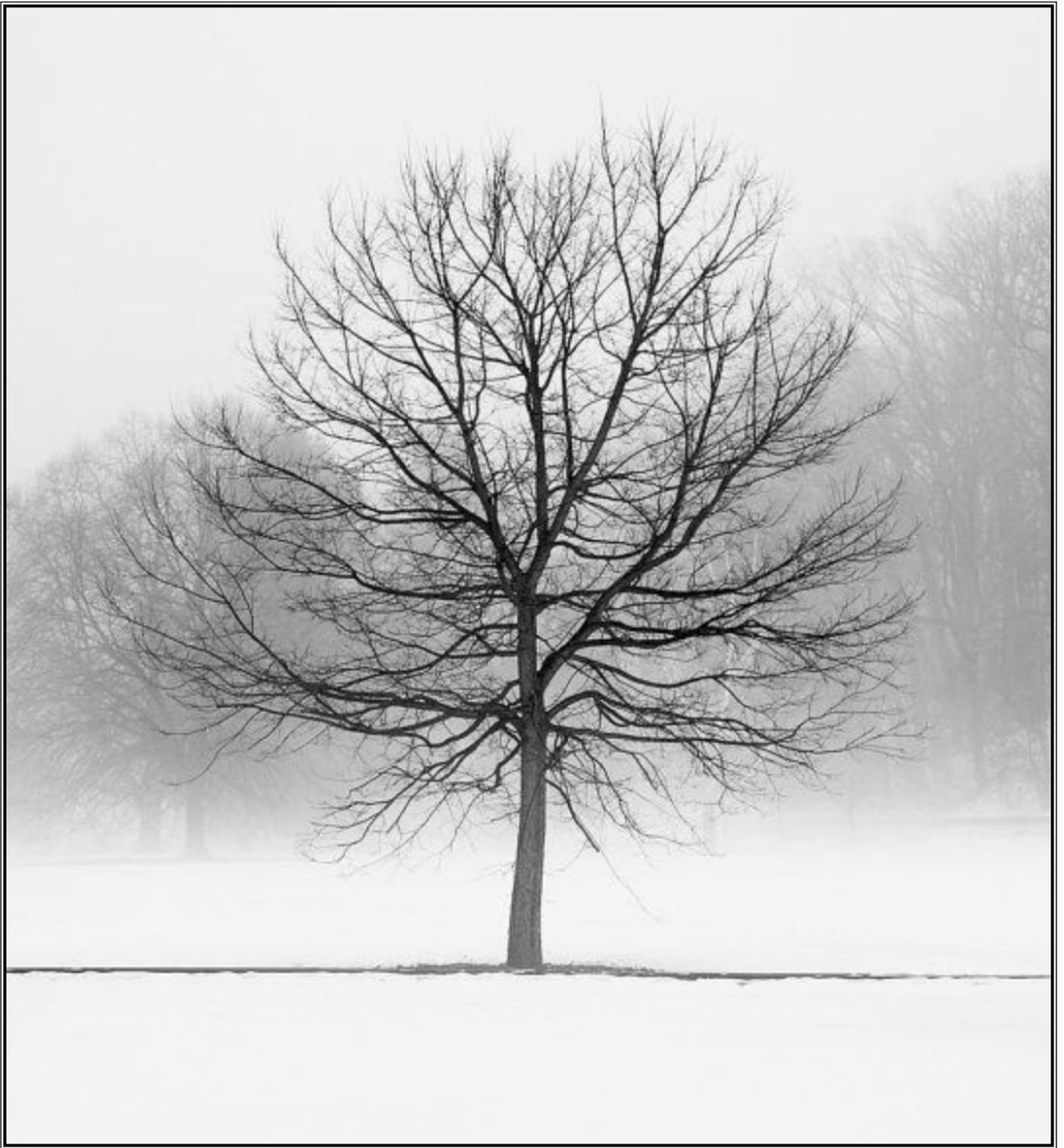
Do you want to start a company but not quite sure how?

Are you a businessperson ready to pursue new ways to enhance your cash flow?

A MANA Affiliate has the possibility of earning those funds, the money to support your entrepreneurship, your dream, or enhance your income by sending leads to customers.

As a MANA affiliate, you provide leads to customers. You would send MANA an email indicating the person whom you have sent. If the person purchases any products or services on the MarketingNewAuthors.com website, MANA pays you 20%.

Contact MANA at [marketingnewauth@aol.com](mailto:marketingnewauth@aol.com) for more information and to ask questions about becoming a MANA Affiliate!



## *Bare Essential Bits--Free Resource from MANA*

Do you have students who need help with grammar or misspellings? Do they know when to use “then” or “than” or “their”, “there”, or “they’re”?

If you aren’t sure, then listen to MANA’s new audio series, “Bare Essential Bits: All You Wanted to Ask About a Grammatical/Writing Tidbit but Were Too Embarrassed to Ask!”

Dr. C of MANA provides short podcasts (5 to 10 minutes in length) that address a spelling challenge or grammatical issue that stumps or confuses writers. For instance: Do you know when to use “its” and “it’s”? The series will also explore punctuation marks, apostrophes and commas.

There are sixteen podcasts for your students. You may find this a valuable tool in the classroom or in your own life. These podcasts are a free resource from MANA!



# *Letter From the Editor:*

Winter is here! Winter is a great time to recharge. With the new year coming up quick it's also a wonderful time to take stock of old habits and consider where you might be inclined to form new ones. I borrowed the following list from Bridgid Gallagher's blog to share with you, "9 Ways to be a More Productive Writer":

- 1) **Start with purpose.**
- 2) **Carve out a dedicated workspace**
- 3) **Cut out distractions**
- 4) **Consume less**
- 5) **Create incentive**
- 6) **Track your time**
- 7) **Work in batches**
- 8) **Know when to quit**
- 9) **Schedule when possible**

*Happy Writing!*

