

# *The MANA Sunset*

## *A Newsletter for Writers, December 2014*

### *In This Edition*

Happy Holidays! As the year ends and you bustle about readying Christmas purchases, take the time today to read about what's been going on with MANA this past month. This edition will feature new works MANA has published, special deals available for the month of December for anyone looking to get published, as well as tips and tricks for writers from all walks of life. Enjoy!



### *Quote of the Month*

There is nothing in the world so  
irresistibly contagious  
as laughter and good humor.

-Charles Dickens

## Upcoming Book Releases

*Russ Grimes* will release the second book in his tale of a middle-aged man's discovery of his superpowers. *The Continuing Adventures of a Middle-Aged Man* will debut in December. This story is a great read for an audience of all ages. The book will be available on the MANA website quite soon. Find an excerpt from Mr. Grimes' book below:

*Randy Grimes was an ordinary middle-aged man until that fateful day a year ago when he dug up the silver box containing the magic coin from Grigard the Wise. A scroll he found with the magic coin informed him that it would grant the owner three wishes. Randy was skeptical at first, but soon he would know that it was indeed true. Randy's first wish was to be lucky. Randy's second wish was for superpowers. Finally, Randy's third wish was for enhanced mental and telekinetic abilities. Little did Randy know that these powers would allow him to go on some incredible adventures. These great powers would also test his morals, his values, and his family.*

## *The Grammar/Mechanics/Punctuation ONLY Handbook*

Interested in learning some grammar basics, without having to pore through a tedious textbook? Dr. Fairy C. Hayes-Scott, Ph.D., will be releasing a grammar book focusing only on grammar questions-*The Grammar/Mechanics/Punctuation ONLY Handbook*. If you'd like to brush up on some basics that you're too embarrassed to ask your friends about, the book will be available soon on the MANA website. Look for its release!

## *Cherisa Allen's Book Signing*

On November 8th, MANA held a book release and signing for Cherisa Allen's newly published account of sexual abuse, emotional abuse, alcoholism, and suicide -- *Revelation, Resignation, Restoration: A Woman's Story of Triumph for all Women*. As a member of the MANA team, I attended the event and was deeply moved.

The selections from Ms. Allen's book were read by her close friends as a performance, complete with beautiful live music and ending in the physical culmination of the breaking of chains. Ms. Allen's story can resonate with all women as a heartfelt healing journey. I deeply respect Ms. Allen's brave decision to share her story. Look for news of the next dramatic performance on the MANA website. Also, if you would like to hear more about Ms. Allen's journey, the MANA Blog now has a question and answer session posted with her, as well as a reading done by her from her book.



# *MANA Special Offers for December*

A graphic with the words "BLACK FRIDAY" in a bold, white, hand-drawn font on a black background, surrounded by small white lines suggesting motion or light.

## *Black Friday Sale Extended*

MANA's Black Friday deal--25% off a publishing plan--will extend until December 31st. Take advantage of this great deal!

## *Dr. C's Creative Writing Course*

As a feature coming up in 2015, "Dr. C's Creative Writing Course—An Academic Cruise," offers a discussion of a professor's course development and the first time teaching that course. Anyone reading the blog will experience a firsthand account of how the process of developing a course works, as well as the students' responses to the course. This blog can be of use to writers and anyone who teaches writing. Check it out in the new year!



## *Buy One Get One Half Off*



For the holiday celebration, MANA offers a special deal. Purchase one children's book, get the second purchase of a children's book half off. These books would make great Christmas gifts for your children, grandchildren, nieces, or nephews!



## *Follow MANA on Google+*



Throughout the month of December, any person who follows MANA on Google+ will receive a free e-book copy of an excerpt from the upcoming grammar handbook, *The Grammar/Mechanics/Punctuation ONLY Handbook*. In addition, for the month of January 2015, followers will receive 20% off any books that are on the MANA website. All that is needed for a person to become a Google+ follower is to go to Google+ and follow MarketingNewAuthors.com. To get the 20% coupon and e-book excerpt, you just need to e-mail MANA ([info@marketingnewauthors.com](mailto:info@marketingnewauthors.com)) giving your e-mail address. Upon receipt of such an e-mail, MANA will send the e-book excerpt and coupon.



# *A (Short) Letter From the Editor*



Happy Holidays! However you celebrate this time of the year, may you do it with cheer! There's no better gift than knowledge--advice that led me to purchase only books this year as gifts. Check out the MANA website for some great book gifts.

I've opted to keep my bit short this newsletter, offering some advice for re-writing a story or part of a novel. Here are three things to check for when re-writing:

## 1) **Plot holes**

Stories flow from scene to scene, each event or turn carefully explored by the writer. Check your stories for holes--areas where a character's motivation isn't properly fleshed out. There's nothing worse than confusing your reader by leaving questions in his/her mind.

## 2) **Tone**

One of the most helpful ways I check my writing for tone is to read it aloud, by myself. Awkward phrasing and grammar errors become evident to a seasoned ear.

## 3) **Diction**

Depending on the point of view and status of the characters, particular verb choices and, perhaps, intentional grammar mistakes in dialogue create a unique form of speaking for your story's characters. Check for consistencies, in terms of which word choices would be most natural to the characters you're writing. Don't let an impoverished boy from the hills of Kentucky say "aren't" even once -- only "ain't" will do. Reading aloud helps to catch incongruities in diction as well.

I hope you find these three tips for re-writing helpful. Be safe, be merry, and be well!

*Happy Writing (and re-writing)!*