

The MANA Sunset

June 2018 Issue

In This Issue:

Summer is in full swing! This month we include new and wonderful writing by Brendan Dutzy, Victoria Carbone, and Ronald Waters. We also provide information regarding two new publications MANA has just released (or will release soon!): *The Lonely Girl Diaries* and *Through the Storm: The Sequel*.

I also include a helpful list for those of you who are interested in discussing the craft element of fiction writing that involves the handling of time and, more specifically, specific usages of writing flashbacks.

Enjoy the issue!

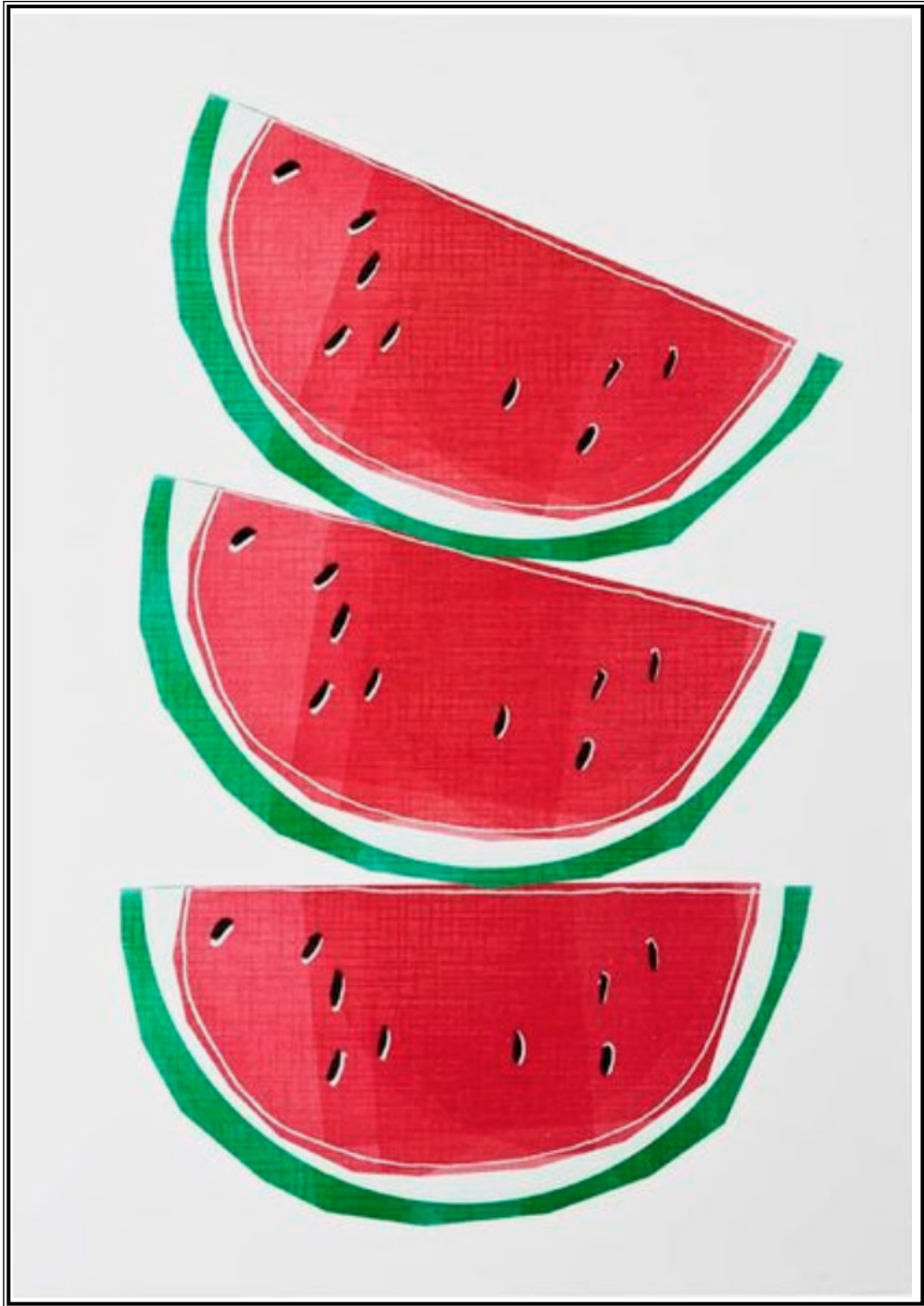
Quote of the Month

“I took a deep breath and listened to the old bray of my heart.
I am. I am. I am.”



Sylvia Plath





“Tranquility”

By Brendan Dutzy

The smell of oils is in the air

The brisk smell of the flowers and trees passes by me

Wind rushes quickly and briefly past my ears

I hear nothing, but feel the touch of the wind

There is no sound just motion

Life can bring motion with no sound.

“The Miracle Child”

by Victoria Carbone

The sun shined brightly, and the sky held a baby blue glow. Flowers were blooming in vibrant colors: pink, red, yellow, and white. It was such a beautiful spring day for a baby girl to be born. The doctors had saved the newborn’s life; she was a miracle. The mother held her child close, and the father held his daughter’s hand. In a dark corner of the hospital room, Death observed the interaction. He slowly walked toward the bed, looming over the happy family. He held his scythe in his left hand and extended his right arm, reaching for the girl. The parents were oblivious of the danger their child was in. Death pointed at the child’s forehead, inching closer by the second. He knew that the child had to die.

Suddenly, the baby opened its eyes and smiled. Death stopped, his fingertip almost brushing her skin. He tilted his head, staring at her. He, finally, brought his arm back to his side. At that moment Death became fascinated with life, imprinting on the little girl.

As the years passed, Death watched the child grow up. The girl was often bullied in middle school. One day, Death became angry and could not bear to watch her torment continue. He hurried over to her side, placing his hand on the bully’s shoulder to try and stop him. The boy immediately collapsed on the floor. Death stood there, shocked of what he had done. A rush of emotions began to overwhelm him. He slowly looked at the miracle child, seeing her eyes grow wide and her mouth agape. He realized that the child was special, that she would do great things in life.

Death knew that his job was to protect her from any danger that would come her way.

Christmas in July

From July 1 to July 25, MANA is offering its very special Christmas in July Self-Publishing Offers.

If you or a friend have been wanting to publish that book and have it out as early as December 2018, this is the special gift you can give to yourself or to another.

And there is more! Anyone who takes advantage of the special will be able to do some early Winter Holiday shopping. For just a \$525 non-refundable down payment for the plan, you will also receive (at no additional cost) a present you can give for that teacher in your family, a present of a customized engraved necklace or any custom-made jewelry set for that special lady in your life, and choices of up to \$70 worth of books for friends, children, and grandchildren. Yes! You will receive more than just a very economically-competitive self-publishing service.

So make this Christmas in July Sale a gift for yourself and others!

"I Thought About You, Dad" by Ronald Waters

I thought about you today, Dad,
And missed your smile
The same smile that was there when
I ran my first race and lost
Giving all that I had
Probably trying to impress you more
Than win the race at hand
But even in my failing to win
I still felt I had made you proud
And in that I had won
If not a metal, at least a smile would do.

I thought about you today, Dad,
And missed your touch
The same hands that picked me up
All those times when I had fallen
Riding my bike, or climbing that tree
You had told me not to
The same hands that I shook every day
Leaving for wherever I was going
Or returning to wherever I was
Coming from
I wake sometimes still
Wanting just another chance to touch you
And feel you touch me back.

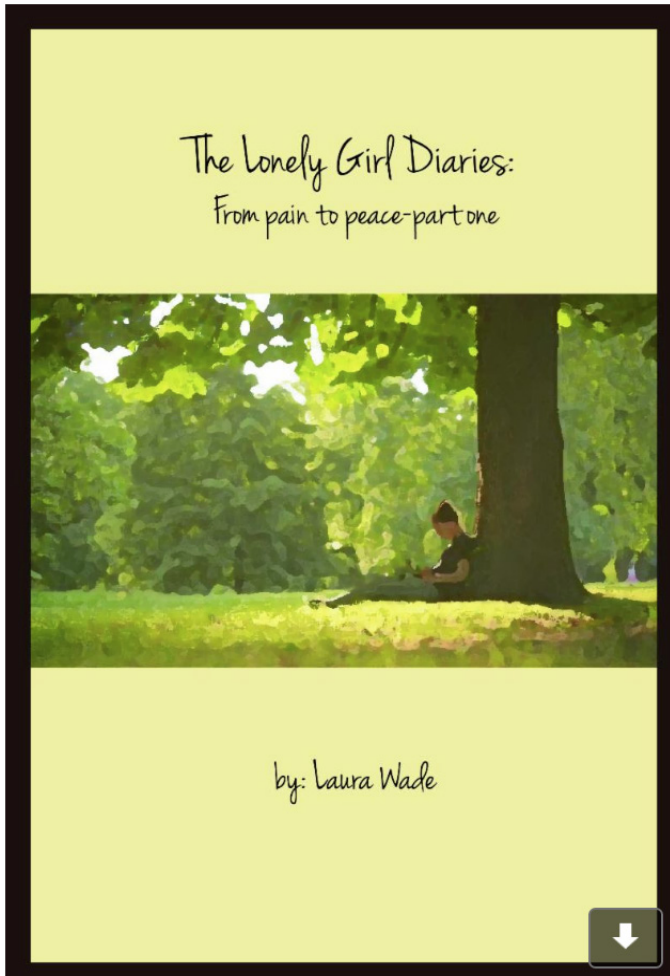
I thought about you today, Dad,
And missed your voice
And what I wouldn't give to just have you
Laugh at one of my not so funny jokes again
Or simply speak the name
You helped give me at birth
But as I listen to the silence
Tenth Anniversary Edition 67
That I now face each and every day
I would die again from your loss
If it weren't for your voice in my heart
That keeps me going if only for
One more day.

New Publications for MANA:

The Lonely Girl Diaries

This work is a collection of diary entries. The author de-tails her experiences when her husband of over 20 years leaves her for another woman. These diary entries take a reader through the painful process of having to accept the death of a marriage. Yes, this is not an uncommon experience. However, this author has the strength not just to forge a new life for herself, but she shares the journey in a poignantly and powerfully-written work.

This book is not just for other women who may have been through or are going through a similar experience. The publication is for the friends and families that do not understand why “she just doesn’t walk away and forget the b _ _ _ _ _ d.” The reasons are complicated and, yet, one overriding reason is clear—she loves him. Still, it is with every diary entry a reader will see how this woman discovers her inner strength and, most importantly, the love she has for herself. And that is why the title so explicitly states the content. This work celebrates this author’s life and that of so many women who have not written their story. This epistolary sharing takes its reader through the journey—“from pain to peace.”



About the Author:

Laura Wade lives in Michigan with her boyfriend. In the cold Michigan winters, they like to stay home and watch scary movies or binge watch a TV series. During the warmth of the summers, they go on road trips visiting different areas of interest. This is Ms. Wade’s first publication; she plans to start working on Part II of her life’s journey during her upcoming summer trips.

Through the Storms: The Sequel

MANA is celebrating the sequel to *Through the Storms: The Sequel* by Mrs. Martha Freudigman. Upcoming in July! More info com-ing soon!



"My Ego" by Lisa West

I am the center of the universe
There is nothing that can compare to me in size
The blazing fiery sun is a tiny spec of sand on the beach in Bangladesh
The stars are just a twinkle in my eye
The rings of Saturn are like a crown of jewels to fit perfectly on my head
I am the all powerful

I am living rent free in my mind
I control your subconscious and focus on influencing your way of thinking
I play mind games by making realistic motions with a game controller
Victory is the end result
I am the controller

I am swift with super speed like a cheetah
My competitors are my prey
I hunt, catch, and devour all that cross my path
I can leap over Mt. Everest, jump across the Grand Canyon and
Soar above the earth with, strength, and ease
I am athletic

I was born in China into a family of philosophers
Confucius was my father
I was adopted by Einstein and went to school with Sir Isaac Newton
My mentor was Leonardo da Vinci
I am sharp as a broken piece of glass
I am a genius

I walked deep into the Ecuador rainforest and my jeweled eyes dried up the
soft rain
My smile melted all of America
All the silk worms went extinct trying to weave my exquisite radiant hair
Beauty is in the eye of the beholder and I am the only beholder.



Letter from the Editor

Hello, readers! For this month, based off a blog written by K.M. Weiland entitled “The Only Reason Your Story Should Have Flashbacks,” I have devised a list of possible reasons or times when you should effectively incorporate flashbacks into your fiction. I hope this bit of information is helpful to those of you who are considering or in the process of writing fiction of any sort!

Three Reasons Why Flashbacks are Useful When Writing Fiction:

- 1) They offer or fill in useful information about main characters and/or other relevant details about the past. This might include information that you couldn't include smoothly in the plot.
- 2) The back story can help move the plot along or explain a feature of the plot that doesn't take place in the front story.
- 3) The drama of including information about the past, or of slowing down the pacing of the story, might provide a nice interruption to the original pacing of things as they unfold.

I hope the rest of your summer is fruitful and sunny. And, more importantly, I hope that your summer includes lots of resting and relaxing and hopefully some writing, too.

Happy Writing!