

# Monarch e-News



**Monterey Bay Chapter RWA**  
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<http://www.MontereyBayRWA.com>

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## ABOUT US

Monterey Bay Chapter is affiliated with Romance Writers of America, headquartered in Houston, Texas. RWA® is a non-profit professional and educational association of romance writers and other publishing industry professionals.  
[www.rwanational.org](http://www.rwanational.org)

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## New Meeting Location:

**Community Room #4**  
**Watsonville Community Hospital**  
**75 Nielson Street**  
**Watsonville, CA 95076**  
 See Page 2 for details.

## Vice President's Letter

by Kathleen Dougherty

This week I killed an ogre. He was a very nice ogre and he did not deserve to die, but I killed him anyway. Two days later I brought him back in a blood ritual that was both funny and scary.

Did I bring the ogre back out of a sense of guilt? Yes...I think I did. But if the blood ritual had been anything less than funny and scary, and most important, if it hadn't moved the main character deeper into trouble, I would have left the ogre dead.

This is my fifth re-write on this book. The road behind me is scattered with the discarded pages of funny, scary, heartwarming, nifty scenes that did not make an important change in my character's life. I hated cutting out each and every one of those scenes. I agonized about each of them, but in the end, the book is about 80,000 words long and I have left at least another 80,000 words in the recycle bin. In case you aren't a math genius, that means that to arrive at 80,000 acceptable words, I had to write 160,000 and discard half.

I wish I were the kind of writer who's first 80,000 words of a book were the last 80,000 words of a book. Alas, I am the unfortunate writer who, like any toddler, must follow every bug, every tiny stream, and every bird that crosses my path. When I try to ignore the streams, the bugs and the birds, I wind up with a voice and story that feels contrived, predictable and flat.

The Monterey Bay Fiction Writer's first meeting of 2010 was a collage session. I had a great time cutting, laughing and pasting pictures. For me, this activity did not provide concrete ideas, but rather opened the creative flow—gave free rein to the bug chasing toddler inside of me who wanders around gathering cool characters and odd places that are so important in my stories. I've felt a renewed enthusiasm for writing and stories and my characters this year that is like a cool breeze from the past. I am looking forward to many more creative workshops where I can work side by side with all of you on our stories.

Until then, keep writing, keep discarding...and keep chasing bugs!

## Editor's Note

by **Christie Maurer**

It's a new year. Besides a new location--check directions and map link below--we've got a new meeting format--doing critiques and setting monthly goals. Here's hoping everyone who attended the Donald Maass workshop came back with renewed enthusiasm and lots of ideas on improving their craft.

Thanks to Marianne van Gelder, Kathleen Dougherty, and Joan Powell for their contributions to this issue. Thanks, too, to Carolyn Woolston for finding us a new home. To help us with goal-setting, two of this month's Editor Link articles discuss goals and planning. One uses Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* as an example of story development. The last is a how-to on blogging. Speaking of which . . .

If you don't want to join the Chapter's Blog, then write a WIP article. I'm always open to articles from members. Did you finish a scene? A book? Write a (or lots of) paragraph(s)? Find a research source? If "life" has gotten in the way, or you're ready to quit--share that, too. **Deadline: February 20** - [maure4cr@baymoon.com](mailto:maure4cr@baymoon.com)

## February 6 Meeting

Monterey Bay Chapter's next meeting is **February 6, 2010**, 9:30 a.m. at the **Watsonville Hospital Community Room #4**, 75 Nielson Street, Watsonville, CA 95076, (831) 724-4741.

### Directions:

Exit Highway 1 at Airport Boulevard, go left onto Airport Boulevard. Nielson is the second street to the right. Link to map: <http://www.watsonvillehospital.com/contact-us/pages/directions.aspx>

We will have directions posted in the lobby. For caffeine addicts--there's a coffee kiosk on the way.

### Program:

**9:30 a.m. critiques:** Bring up to 3 double-spaced pages--copies for everyone--for feedback.

### Sophie Littlefield - Tension and Action

Bring something to write on and your WIP for Sophie Littlefield's 2-hour workshop. We're excited to have her expertise in this area. She'll present several hands-on exercises relating to tension/action. She wants to know what we are writing and tailors the discussion to our specific interests.

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Sophie's first novel, *A Bad Day for Sorry*, features a rural Missouri housewife-turned-vigilante. It appeared on the San Francisco Chronicle and IMBA bestseller lists. Her young adult novel, *Banished*, will be released in fall 2010. Her award-winning short stories have appeared in a variety of publications. Sophie lives in Northern California with her husband and two teenagers. Visit her at [www.sophielittlefield.com](http://www.sophielittlefield.com).

## Sister Chapter Meetings

Check out the websites for what's happening at nearby Chapters. They have some terrific programs:

♦ **San Francisco** - <http://www.sfarwa.com/>

♦ **Silicon Valley** - <http://www.svrwa.com/>

## Website and Blog

Take a look at our Chapter website: <http://www.MontereyBayRWA.com> Our webmistress, Carolyn Comings, has also created a Chapter Blog. Read the posts on <http://montereybayrwa.blogspot.com/> If you haven't yet joined, e-mail her for an invitation - [ccomings@redshift.com](mailto:ccomings@redshift.com)

## Upcoming Meetings

Since MBC is experimenting with new meeting formats, exciting new programs to help us become better writers are being developed at this time. Be sure to save the first Saturday of the month.

## **New Year, New Start – Setting Goals for Success**

by **Judythe Hixson**

(This article first appeared in the January 2010 issue of Lone Star Galley, the electronic and print newsletter of the Northwest Houston Chapter of RWA, Karen Hankins, Editor.)

*"Desire is the key to motivation, but it's determination and commitment to an unrelenting pursuit of your goal - a commitment to excellence - that will enable you to attain the success you seek." - Mario Andretti*

There's something about the last days of a year that is as special as it is sad. For some, regrets reign over what could have been, but for all it's a time of anticipation for what's to come and the prospect for new beginnings. These hours as the sun sets on another year are a time to plan and make resolutions, to set goals. Resolutions to move us along our writing careers.

As a former teacher, goals (aka objectives) have always been an integral part of my world. I saw lesson plan objectives produce learning success for my students. So transferring goal setting to my writing career was a logical, easy progression.

Like I did for my students, I set measurable objectives for myself. What do I want to accomplish in three months, six months, by this time next year, in five years? Experience has taught me when you know where you're going, you go farther than when you just drift along.

For me, goal setting provides the target, and I can even analyze why I missed the bull's eye and adjust as I move toward success. Knowledge is power. When I know what works, I can do more of it. When I know what doesn't work, I can do less of it. Having an accountability group provides additional focus and encouragement toward accomplishing what I've set out to do.

Not only do I set measurable goals for myself, I also reward myself for my accomplishments! A new book on craft, a piece of jewelry I covet, a dinner out with my husband or even something as simple as a writing-free day.

I begin my yearly goal setting process with a review of the previous year. How quickly I forget my successes and accomplishments, especially when life interferes with heavy family crises as it did in 2009. Yet as I reviewed the year using my 2009 Star Chart entries, I discovered I had accomplished far more than I thought. I'm betting you would see the same results. For next year I'll be using our chapter's new Write Path for analysis.

After my review, I give serious thought to the questions below before setting my targets for the New Year. Caveat here: Not only am I goal-oriented, I'm also a list maker.

### **1. What do I want to write this year?**

Too often, I lose myself in beginnings and not THE ENDS so I map out a specific plan—new book(s) or article(s) or manuscript revision(s). Making a list keeps me going when the flush of enthusiasm fades or a new idea pounds in my head.

### **2. What do I want to sell this year?**

I make a list of my completed projects along with targeted markets. I don't limit myself to those identified markets. I still search for other markets throughout the year and capitalize on other opportunities that arise.

### **3. What steps am I taking to get my name out there?**

Whether published or unpublished everyone must be promoting themselves and their work. Things like your own blog and website are important to getting your name out there, but you have to recognize that these can also be writing time-suckers and plan accordingly. Writing articles for organizational newsletters and commenting on others' blogs can help with branding and name recognition. I pick two or more and focus my efforts.

### **4. What aspect of the publishing business do I need to know more about?**

Today's tight market means we need to be more savvy. That means investing time to learn about specific aspects such as negotiation strategies, publishing contracts, distribution, marketing, advertising, etc. Information provides knowledge that can move us toward success. I choose one aspect of the writing business and learn all I can.

### **5. On what writing craft do I need to focus?**

Crafting the perfect story is a never-ending quest. I identify at least one craft area in which I am weak then work at improving my skills throughout the year.

### **6. What on-line classes will help me build my craft? What writing conferences will I attend?**

In RWA, we are blessed with so many wonderful choices for workshop and conferences.

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## Setting Goals for Success

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We need a budget and a plan to make the most of those opportunities. I use the following sources to schedule workshops and conferences for the year: (1) Julie Rowe's Yahoo Group that simply announces available on-line writing workshops. No chatter, just a listing of what's out there on the web.

Announceonlinewritingclasses-subscribe@yahoo.com (2) RWR also lists workshops and conferences and (3) the RWA website has national conference information.

### 7. What's on my reading list?

Like writing every day, reading every day is critical to a writer's progress. When I don't read, I miss the opportunity to study successful authors' methods and lose touch with what's being published. So I commit to read "x" number of books—not only in the genre I write, but also in other genres as well as literary novels, articles, essays, periodicals, and nonfiction.

### 8. How do I want to grow personally in the New Year?

Business/writing goals are important, but I feel personal growth is equally important. Personal well-being is found in knowing one's self, and "wisdom is the product of knowledge and experience, but it is more than the accumulation of information. It is the coordination of this information and its deliberate use to improve well-being." (Essay by Ben Dean, Ph.D.)

I choose, and frequently find I must repeat, a positive quality or specific virtue to work on throughout the New Year. Warning here: you may be sorry you have this goal during the year, but by December 31st the wisdom you gain will be worth the frustrations, or at least I always feel that way.

Goals help solidify intangibles into something tangible. Goals work for me. I encourage you to think about a writing plan for the New Year.

To quote, Pablo Picasso: "Our goals can only be reached through a vehicle of a plan, in which we must fervently believe, and upon which we must vigorously act. There is no other route to success."

Happy goal setting to all and to all a good 2010 writing year!

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Judythe Hixson is the PRO Liaison for the Northwest Houston chapter of RWA. Judythe weaves love stories to touch the heart under the pseudonym Judythe Morgan: [www.judythemorgan.com](http://www.judythemorgan.com)

## Mary Shelley: Building a Story

by Jennifer Childers

(This article ran in the January 2010 issue of *The Final Draft*, the newsletter of Carolina Romance Writers in Charlotte, NC, Kristy Mabe, Editor.)

An idea takes root in your mind and you decide to make it a story. Ideas could come from a news story, trivia, or even a dream, as was the case with Mary Shelley. Like most of us, she had an idea and had to nurture this idea into a story.

It was a dark and stormy night (no, really) when Mary sat in the parlor with three friends on a bet. The four were bored and decided on a ghost story challenge. It is rumored the men teased her saying she was at a disadvantage as a woman, for she was unable to grasp the elements of horror.

She stared at a blank page for the longest time before remembering a conversation about Erasmus Darwin and the ideas he had about the possibility of returning a corpse or assembled body parts to life. It is said she had a waking dream which gave her the ideas for *Frankenstein*.

A plot seed needed nurturing to grow from there:

A scientist would create life from the dead, in a lab, using his scientific skill. If she made an outline it might look like this:

- I. Scientist creates a living being (story begins)
  - a. His desire is to learn the mysteries of life and death--and overcome them.
  - b. He would have to rob graves to obtain body parts
  - c. Jail would be the penalty if he were caught. Stealth would be a must

This would establish goal, motivation and conflict for the main character. From here, Shelley would have to decide how the scientist's (Dr. Frankenstein) decision affected himself and those around him.

Instead of the growling brain dead monster of many Frankenstein remakes, Shelley's monster was intelligent, multi lingual, and became a person with his own agenda.

- II. He's created a monster (the story middle)
  - a. The monster cannot be controlled.
  - b. the monster has his own demands (wants)
  - c. The monster proves a threat

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## Mary Shelley . . . A Story

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The monster wants a mate, the scientist is appalled. At first the scientist tries to escape the monster, but the monster becomes adamant and threatens his creator. (establishing his own GMC)

Unable to fit into society the monster wants a companion, one like him. (goal)

He promises his creator the to leave all in peace if he is granted this request (motivation)

He is denied (conflict).

Details often grow out of story ideas as you get to know your characters better and start to think as they would. Events escalate, the monster will not be ignored and lives are at stake. The scientist has to resolve the problem. It is his creation; therefore, he is responsible for the monster. How will he appease the monster? Can he appease it? Refusal means the death of his family.

Ultimately, the monster leaves for the arctic circle, leaving the scientist broken. A lesson learned about playing God. This is taken from her book:

"I saw the pale student of unhallowed arts kneeling beside the thing he had put together. I saw the hideous phantasm of a man stretched out, and then, on the working of some powerful engine, show signs of life, and stir with an uneasy, half vital motion. Frightful must it be; for supremely frightful would be the effect of any human endeavor to mock the stupendous mechanism of the Creator of the world."

Frankenstein was meant to be a short story, but the ideas grew and the tale grew longer.

Outline your thoughts and play with the characters.

Can the monster die?

Are there lessons he can teach us?

Will Frankenstein's intended dump the doctor and take up with the monster? This happened in Mel Brook's "Young Frankenstein" with hilarious results!

Outlines are only guides. Getting the main ideas down for beginning, middle and end give a starting place for further ideas. Like a seedling, the ideas will blossom into something, a real story. But keep in mind; you alone are responsible for your own creation.

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Jennifer Childers facilitates a writer's group at Mauney Library in Kings Mountain. A former guardian ad litem, she received accommodation from President George Bush, Sr. She has also worked with the nurturing program, which teaches child abuse prevention techniques. For her, adventures in marriage and raising a teenager keep life fun and lend proof to the adage "Love conquers all."

MONARCH E-NEWS

## How to Start Blogging – A Primer

By Darcee Yates

(This article first appeared in the January 2010 issue of Heart of the West, the newsletter for the Utah Chapter RWA.)

You mean you don't blog? And you call yourself a writer.

"Julie & Julia," the movie, made a huge impression on me this past month. Julie, frustrated writer, not a finisher, turns to blogging, attempting to blog every day for 365 days, describing her experiences in making more than 500 recipes from Julia Child's book. Challenging. But, success! She got a following. And a book deal! Hey, anything can happen. Right?

For those of you who haven't yet joined the blogging community, a blog is an online journal of your writing. You use free online software to write/edit/add images and then post your finished piece to your site. You give your post a title, and decide certain key words in your post to be identifying tags and if someone searches for those tags/key words, your document may come up.

What should you blog about? Well, what are you passionate about? Cooking? Hiking? Scottish Castles? Whatever it is, chances are that someone else is too. And right-this-minute they may be punching "Scottish castles" into a search line on the internet.

If you have something to share, blogging is a great way to share it. Blog about anything that interests you but here's the point. Make sure you have one. A point, that is. Have a focus if you expect to be read. In real estate, the important thing is location, location, location. In blogging it's all about content. Any picture will make someone stop and look. They'll stay if you have something to say.

Your topic needs to be broad enough to gather a following, be clearly defined in its focus, and have plenty of material for the life of the blog. Can you quickly scribble off a dozen possible titles for posts on your topic? Your blog should be something that you can't stop blogging about, literally.

Once you've brainstormed your super terrific blog idea, you need to set up a place to share it.

There are many free blogging sites to choose from. Do an online search for "free blog sites" and you'll come up with more than you can handle. All the sites I have checked out only require an email address to register and you're all set. After trying a few, I chose [www.wordpress.com](http://www.wordpress.com). I liked the variety of pre-made pages they offered and the ease with which

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## Start Blogging

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I could add my own pictures to my posts. Their pre-made pages also allowed me to substitute a picture of my own into the banner at the top. I liked this feature a lot too. I put a picture of my kitchen in my banner. From my dashboard, on my blog site, I went to appearances, custom banner, then I used the browsing features to browse and upload a picture from my computer. Quick and easy. The software even had a simple cropping tool. Anything else you want to do to enhance your blog, i.e., add pages, pictures, links, calendars, etc., will take place from your dashboard and it is very easy to navigate.

So, now you are ready to blog. Get to it. All that I've described so far is free! In this economy, you can't beat that.

Everything in part one will get you blogging and you may never need or want anything else. However, if you want your site to have its own name, [www.Bethsgarden.com](http://www.Bethsgarden.com) as opposed to [www.Bethsgarden.wordpress.com](http://www.Bethsgarden.wordpress.com), you can register that name for about ten bucks a year. It's called a domain. [www.godaddy.com](http://www.godaddy.com) is one site that registers domains but there are many others. Again, just do an online search for domain registrars. And for about ten bucks a year more, you can get a host for your domain. Do a search for domain hosting. You can buy your domain and hosting at the same site or at separate sites so shop around.

About the domain name. It makes good sense to make the name match the title of the blog. This makes it easier for someone to remember and to find your site again. Also, I like the title of my blog to match its content. Example: If the title of my blog is Beth's Garden, my domain name would be [www.bethsgarden.com](http://www.bethsgarden.com), and it would be about Beth's garden, or at least about gardening. However, you don't have to do this. You can use whatever name you choose, as long as it's available.

At [www.godaddy.com](http://www.godaddy.com) and other domain registrars there is a search tool to see if a domain name is available. There can only be one [www.Bethsgarden.com](http://www.Bethsgarden.com). I might have to make my site [www.BethAnnesgarden.com](http://www.BethAnnesgarden.com). Be prepared to try several possibilities. Once it comes up with "SUCCESS! That name is available", you can proceed to the checkout. If all you want is a unique domain name all your own, make sure nothing else gets 'accidentally' added to your cart. Just ten bucks,

remember? Important: make sure you have paper and notepad to write down all of the information at both the domain registration and hosting purchase. You'll need it.

If you've purchased your domain name from one site, and your hosting from another, you'll need to fill in your domain name into the "settings" of your blog on the hosting site. (If you purchase your domain and hosting from the same site, this step may be avoided.) Once you enter your domain name on the hosting site, you'll be prompted that your domain isn't yet pointed to the host. It will then give you instructions and server addresses. Write them down. Then you go back to the place you registered your domain, (in my case, [www.godaddy.com](http://www.godaddy.com)) and using the password that you saved, log into your account and put in the Name Server addresses that were supplied by your hosting company. Sounds difficult but it isn't. You can do this.

Now that your blog is all set up and you're writing furiously, several times a week, if not every day, you'll want to start checking out other blogs. Do a search for blogs in your areas of interest and begin reading them and setting up links on your page to the ones that you find particularly noteworthy and that you would like to visit again. Be a part of the blogging community by participating in the comments of your favorite blogs.

Keep on blogging. After all, you're a writer, it's what you do.

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Darcee Yates is a member of the Utah RWA and an as-yet unpublished writer of Romantic Fiction. She blogs at [www.runwritesoar.com](http://www.runwritesoar.com).

## Planning for Success in 2010

By Nannette Conway

(This article first appeared in the January issue of *Magic Moments*, newsletter of Southern Magic, Birmingham, AL, Nannette Conway, Editor.)

There's an old saying "If you fail to plan, you plan to fail." It may sound cliché but there's a lot of truth to it. At least that's been my experience. I'm not a naturally organized person. I blame it on my birth. Both my siblings were born on holidays. I missed "my" holiday (St. Patrick's Day) by 15 minutes. I was born late and feel like I've been trying to catch up ever since. When you struggle with a disorganized nature it's very easy to get sidetracked and before you know it the day, the month, the year has slipped away.

On December 31, 2010 I want to look back on a successful, productive year – especially in my writing - and that requires a plan. Over the years I've read

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## Planning . . . Success

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books, attended workshops and tried many different planning/goal setting systems. Each had its pros and cons but none of them fit my life. This year I'm trying something that occurred to me while talking to my sisters about the demands on our lives. It's pretty simple. It can be done on a piece of paper or in a spreadsheet. It consists of 4 columns and everything in life can be put into one of the four columns.

I label column one "Called to Do". It is the "why am I here" answers, the "this is important to me" answers. It is what I am called to do now. The answers can change with the seasons of life because they're based on what's going on in my life this year. What is most important to me now. When I was in college "education" would have been an entry in my column one. But that time has passed and now other things are on my list. I'm limiting my answers to no more than five. I think I can juggle five important areas of life but no more. Writing is definitely one of my five "calls" for 2010. This column will be my compass, guiding me to success. I have the list written and placed prominently around my house. On the refrigerator so I see "health" before I grab something to eat for example. The list is to remind me that for the next year every moment not spent on column two or column three items should be spent on column one items.

Column two is called "Survival". These are the things I have to do to survive – sleep, eat, work, laundry, etc. If you're an organized person you probably do these things without conscious thought. But if you're not naturally organized you have to include these things in your plans. Otherwise you forget to pay the bills and the electricity is turned off just when you're writing that wonderful dark moment. Or you get so caught up in writing that dark moment you forget to do the laundry and have nothing to wear to work the next day. I'm trying to be realistic with this list. Yes I have to maintain my home but I don't have to do it to Martha Stewart's standards. I'm aiming for acceptable instead of perfect. The list is not detailed. It's not a "to do" list so much as a "reminder" list. It reminds me that I don't really have 48 free hours on the weekend and I better schedule some of those pesky household chores for after work during the week or I won't have ANY free time during the weekend.

Column three is for all the commitments I made before I started this process. You know – those "sure,

I'll be happy to . . ." moments. I think when you first try to get your life organized and on track it might actually get worse before it gets better. That's because of column three – all the things you said "yes" to because you didn't have a plan and thought you had time to do everything. I want to finish up the column three items as quickly as possible and make sure I don't add anything new to this column during the year unless it supports column one. And if it's an ongoing commitment and it doesn't support my column one items, even if it's important I'll be looking for someone else to take over.

Column four is labeled "Everything Else". These are all the things I've spent time on because I wanted to do them or thought I should do them or just wasted time doing them because I didn't have a plan. If it's not one of my top five priorities for the year, if it's not necessary for my survival, if it's not a commitment I made before I woke up, it goes on this list. Not forgotten, just relegated to "another time". This year I'm going to focus on my column one items. "Another time" I'll consider the things on this list.

I'm looking forward to charting my results with my 4 column plan this year. If you haven't yet made a plan for success for 2010 I encourage you to do so. It's great to start the year with a plan in place but in reality every moment is a new beginning. So I wish you not only a Happy New Year but also a productive, successful one!

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Nannette Conway is the newsletter editor of Magic Moments, newsletter of Southern Magic the RWA Chapter in Birmingham, AL. She can be found blogging at <http://romancemagicians.blogspot.com/>

## Book Reviews

by Joan Powell

### *The Fall of Augustus*, by Sarah Wisseman, Wings ePress Inc., October 2009

I've always thought of a museum as a quiet place to while away the time, but that's not the case when Sarah Wisseman shows us what can happen behind the scenes. Her character, Lisa Donahue has a distinctively difficult challenge ahead of her to keep her position at the museum. Some of the display pieces go missing, and newly discovered mummies haven't been procured from Egypt. *The Fall of Augustus* will definitely keep you guessing who the culprit might be, right down to the last chapter.

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## Book Reviews

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It all begins when several large statues are being moved from the old museum storage location to a new building, where a grand opening is scheduled to take place in a few months. The Assistant Director Lisa Donahue Barber is doing her bit to manage the move, which is not going too smoothly. Especially after a weighty statue of Augustus plunges down the elevator shaft and squashes Museum Director, Victor Fitzgerald like a bug.

And things go steadily screwball from there. Foul play is suspected, and author Sarah Wisseman gives you a long laundry list of suspects: staff members, students, and part time employees, any of whom could be the murderer...but which one? And just who knows enough about the exhibits, besides Lisa, to be stealing some of the better pieces?

After Victor is killed, Lisa is passed over for promotion, her nemesis Valerie Albrecht, from her last job is hired instead to serve as Director. Lisa bites her tongue and does her best to keep her job. But Val makes it a living hell for everyone, until even Lisa would like to accidentally drop another statue down the elevator shaft...but she'd have to stand in line. Everyone on site would love to do Valerie in themselves. Even the Police Sergeant, Bruce McEwan wonders just how involved Lisa might be with all the strange things happening down in the basement.

This is an exceptionally first-rate read. It had me guessing right down to the last chapter who-done-it—and why.

### ***Savvy My Heart – Love Bites*, by Elliot Love, Wings ePress Inc., July 2009**

*Savvy My Heart – Love Bites* written by Elliot Love is no average Gothic tale. No. This is an exciting, upbeat vampire story like none I've ever read before. Not only is it not traditional dark fare, but it is sexy and kinky to boot. I loved its nontraditional flair.

Summer knows when she hides her expensive day dreaming habits from her husband, Eric, that it isn't the right thing to do, but she can't help herself. Their marriage has been a farce from the get-go. But, what can a girl do, when her virginal scalawag of a husband has the goods on her? He is blackmailing her into their pretense of a marriage, for the sake of his career... and the fact that she'd rather not go to prison.

Then her dream man, Savion Gibson, actually walks into her life. It blows her away to think the lead song writer, and singer of her favorite band has actually rung her door bell. It's a miracle! He rescues her from her long-time fake marriage.

However, the four members of the band, "Mirror Images," have all been altered by the Sea Hag's bite when they had scuba dived in the ocean. Under the sea creature's control, Sav has purchased an island, Dunalino, where he set up his secret society of the Blood Dragons, and their mates.

Then the sea creature, Nahtoshe, selected Summer to be the soul mate for rock star Savion Gibson. But there is an undertow struggle for power, as one of the band members strives to take over the lead of the small group... by kidnapping Summer, Savion's new intended bride, with the thought of usurping his friend's incredible new powers.

*Savvy My Heart – Love Bites* is an entertaining read. Lighthearted fun! You'll love it.