



A Writers' Conference  
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April 1 & 2, 2011

## Luncheon Keynote: Allison Brennan



*New York Times* and *USA Today* bestseller **Allison Brennan** is the author of thirteen novels and three short stories. A former consultant

in the California State Legislature, she lives in Northern California with her husband Dan and their five children.

Crime fiction, mysteries, and romantic suspense have always been Allison's favorites, so it's no surprise that her romantic thrillers have a dark suspense edge. Reviewers have

called her books "terrifying," "mesmerizing," "fast-paced," "pulse-pounding," "wonderfully complex," "layered," and "a master of suspense - tops in the genre."

Crime fiction is not Allison's only interest. Her first three supernatural thrillers—*Original Sin*, *Carnal Sin*, and *Mortal Sin*—will be released in 2010. Allison continues to write her trademark romantic thrillers. In early 2011, she'll launch a series starring Lucy Kincaid, a favorite character from her No Evil trilogy.

Writing three books a year is more than a full-time job, and so is raising five kids, but Allison believes life is too short to be bored.

## Welcome Keynote: Richelle Mead



**Richelle Mead** is a *New York Times* and *USA Today* Bestselling author of urban fantasy and paranormal romance novels

for both adults and teens. Her two adult series, *Georgina Kincaid* and *Dark Swan*, mix heartache and humor as they follow the adventures of succubi, shamans, fairies, and celebrity -lookalike demons. Her YA series,

*Vampire Academy*, has been translated into over two dozen languages and received honors from the American Library Association. Both *Vampire Academy* and *Georgina Kincaid* have been optioned for film, and *Vampire Academy* and *Dark Swan* will be adapted into graphic novels in 2011. Richelle currently lives in Seattle with her husband and two cats and works full-time on her three series. More info about her books and touring schedule can be found at [www.richellemead.com](http://www.richellemead.com).

## SPECIAL LATE-NIGHT SESSION WITH MARGIE LAWSON

For Registered Attendees Only

**TIME:** Friday, April 1 9:00 P.M.    **PLACE:** Doubletree, Room to be announced

**WORKSHOP:** Tick, Tock, Kill: The Psychology of a Killer Mind

## FEATURED GUESTS

**Amanda Bergeron**  
Editor, HarperCollins Publishers

**Jo Davis**  
Romantic Suspense Author

**Lucienne Diver**  
Agent, Knight Agency

**Kerry Donovan**  
Editor, NAL

**Lorraine Heath**  
New York Times Bestselling Author

**Margie Lawson**  
Writing Craft Instructor

**Julia London**  
New York Times Bestselling Author

**Dean Lorey**  
Writer/Producer/Bestselling Author

**Allison Lyons**  
Editor, Harlequin

**Beth Miller**  
Agent, Writers House

**Suzie Townsend**  
Agent, Fineprint Literary Agency

**Jaye Wells**  
Urban Fantasy Author

## Conference Schedule:

### Friday, April 1

**4:00 - 6:00 P.M.**

Registration Packet Pickup in Lobby

**7:00 - 9:00 P.M.**

Multi-author Booksigning  
Location: Texas Star Ballroom

**9:00 P.M.**

Special Workshop: Tick, Tock, Kill  
Location: TBD

### Saturday, April 2

**8:00 - 8:30 A.M.**

Registration Packet Pickup in Lobby

**8:30 A.M.**

Breakfast, Welcome & Kickoff  
Location: Azalea/Sunflower Ballroom

Azalea/Sunflower Ballroom			
8:30-9:00	Welcome and Kick-off with Richelle Mead		
	Magnolia/Rose	Sunflower	Violet
9:15-10:00	<p><b>Dean Lorey: <i>Screenwriting 101</i></b></p> <p>In this two hour workshop, Dean Lorey, who wrote the screenplays for films such as <i>Major Payne</i> and <i>Jason Goes to Hell</i>, will cover all the basics for the beginning screenwriter.</p>	<p><b>Allison Brennan: <i>No Plotters Allowed</i></b></p> <p>Solutions to writers block for those who can't, won't, or don't plot. Everyone has their own writing process, and one process definitely doesn't fit all. Sometimes writers need to try different processes before they find the method that works best for them. The most important thing is that your process works for you—and that means you're writing and moving forward. To do that, not only do you have to find your process and discover your authorial voice, but you need to identify why you're struggling.</p>	<p><b>Jo Davis: <i>Beyond The Serial Killer: Crafting Sexy, Heart-Pounding Romantic Suspense</i></b></p> <p>Does your story offer the creepiest bad guy ever conceived, yet the manuscript is languishing in Rejection Hell? This workshop will explore how to inject common themes and tired plot devices with a fresh twist, how to build your plot based on the characters' fears and desires, deciding on the perfect level of sensuality, and how to keep your reader flipping the pages with fast-paced action and dialogue.</p>
10:15-11:00		<p><b>Lorraine Heath: <i>Money Talks</i></b></p> <p>An intimate look at how the advance and royalties are paid out and contract clauses to watch out for.</p>	<p><b>Julia London: <i>Ten Rules Toward a Saner, Happier, You</i></b></p> <p>Julia shares the rules she lives by to keep her head and heart in the game of writing through trying economic times, the roller coaster ride of publishing, and her constant fluctuations in weight.</p>
11:15-12:00	<p><b>Dean Lorey: <i>The Writer's Room</i></b></p> <p>Quick brainstorming and fast plotting. Learn how to get ideas flowing like a T.V. writer from a T.V. writer. Dean has written for television shows such as <i>Arrested Development</i>, <i>My Wife and Kids</i>, <i>Til Death and Brothers</i>. In this interactive workshop, groups will work as a "T.V. writing team" to think of quick and original ideas, and then write out the scene together.</p>	<p><b>No Workshop</b></p>	<p><b>Agent Panel:</b> Lucienne Diver, Beth Miller, and Suzie Townsend will discuss the marketplace and answer any questions you may have.</p>

**SILENCE CELL PHONE BEFORE GOING INTO WORKSHOP**

Azalea/Sunflower Ballroom			
12:00-1:15	Luncheon with Keynote Speaker: Allison Brennan		
	Magnolia/Rose	Sunflower	Violet
1:30-2:15	<b>Margie Lawson:</b> <i>Deep Editing Power Part 1</i>	<b>No Workshop</b>	<b>Editor Panel:</b> Allison Lyons, Kerry Donovan & Amanda Bergeron will discuss what their houses are acquiring and answer any questions you may have about the romance marketplace.
Snack Break	Grab a complimentary snack and punch on your way to the next workshop.		
2:45-3:30	<b>Margie Lawson:</b> <i>Deep Editing Power Part 2</i>	<b>Richelle Mead &amp; Jaye Wells:</b> <i>Before and After the Sale: What No One Else Will Tell You</i>  In this no-holds barred, two-hour workshop, authors Richelle Mead and Jaye Wells will dish on everything you need to know to act like a pro before and after The Call. The first hour will focus on everything you need to know to prepare for life as a published author—from query letters to finding an agent to building a pre-sale network. In the second hour, you'll learn all about the care and feeding of editors, painless promotion, and how to handle the common pitfalls of being published.	<b>Allison Brennan:</b> <i>Breaking Rules to Break in or Break Out</i>  The hero and heroine must meet in the first chapter. You can't switch POV mid-scene. No explicit violence. And cut all those nasty adverbs! Are you tired of hearing about the must do's and must not's in writing? Free yourself from the so-called rules and jumpstart your creativity.
3:45-4:30	<b>Dean Lorey:</b> <i>Middle Grade Fiction That Grabs You</i>  Writing fiction for the middle grade audience that hooks them—and keeps them hooked—from word one.		<b>Margie Lawson:</b> <i>Writing Body Language Like a Psychologist</i>

**SILENCE CELL PHONE BEFORE GOING INTO WORKSHOP**

# EDITORS AND AGENTS



## Amanda Bergeron

Editor, HarperCollins Publishers

Amanda Bergeron joined Avon in Fall 2008. With Executive Editor Erika Tsang and Editor May Chen she has worked with authors such as Kerrelyn Sparks, Jeaniene Frost, Loretta Chase, Lorraine Heath, Sophie Jordan and Margo Maguire. She is looking to acquire all genres of romance, particularly Regency historicals and dark paranormals, as well as commercial women's fiction.

## Lucienne Diver

Agent, Knight Agency

Lucienne Diver joined The Knight Agency in 2008, after spending fifteen years at New York City's prestigious Spectrum Literary Agency. Over the course of her dynamic career she has sold over seven hundred titles to every major publisher, and has built a client list of more than forty authors spanning the commercial fiction genres, primarily in the areas of fantasy, romance, mystery/suspense, erotica and young adult fiction. Her authors have been honored with the RITA, National Readers' Choice, the Golden Heart, and the *Romantic Times* Reader's Choice Awards, and have appeared on the *New York Times* and *USA Today* bestseller lists. She's also an author in her own right with her Vamped young adult series published by Flux Books. Further information is available on The Knight Agency website: [www.knightagency.net](http://www.knightagency.net), her author site: [www.lucienndiver.com](http://www.lucienndiver.com) and her blog: <http://varkat.livejournal.com>.

## Kerry Donovan

Editor, NAL

Kerry Donovan is an Editor at NAL. She joined Penguin in 2004. During her time at NAL she has worked with such authors as New York Times bestsellers Christina Dodd and Jillian Hunter. She is looking to acquire across the genre of romance, particularly urban fantasy with strong world building and historical romance with a compelling voice, as well as commercial women's fiction and mysteries.

## Allison Lyons

Editor, Harlequin

Allison Lyons began her career at Harlequin as an editorial assistant on the Silhouette Intimate Moments line. Now, after 13 years, she's found a home at Harlequin Intrigue as an Editor. Since romantic suspense is so popular, you can be sure that her desk is never empty. And although she works with more than 20 active writers, she still gets excited at the prospect of finding new authors. Her focus tends to be on romantic suspense submissions, but she's open to hearing about projects that would fit any of Harlequin's various lines.

## Beth Miller

Agent, Writers House

Beth Miller has been Robin Rue's assistant at Writers House since 2007. She has the pleasure of working with Lisa Jackson, Linda Howard, Karen Rose, JoAnn Ross, Jacquelyn Frank, Lorraine Heath, Kresley Cole, Cathy Maxwell, Mary Jo Putney, Patricia Rice, Holly Lisle, Lynn Viehl, Sylvia Day, V.C. Andrews, and Elizabeth Scott, just to name a few. In her other life, Beth was a DNA sequencing technician at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory on Long Island. She much prefers books to *E. coli*, and enjoys scuba diving and road trips in her spare time. She also has a fascination for all things Scottish. Beth is looking for romance (including paranormal, romantic suspense, historical, and fantasy romance), fantasy, and a good action-packed thriller. She also likes YA and middle-grade. She's not really into chick-lit, mystery, or literary fiction.



## Suzie Townsend

Agent, Fineprint Literary Agency

Suzie is actively looking for fiction and nonfiction: Middle Grade and YA novels (all subgenres, but particularly literary projects), adult romance (historical and paranormal), and fantasy (urban fantasy, science fiction, steampunk, epic fantasy). Specifically, she's actively looking to build her adult list. She's interested in strong characters and voice driven stories: she's particularly keen on strong female protagonists, complex plot lines with underlying political, moral, or philosophical issues, and stories which break out of the typical tropes of their genre. Some of her favorites are *When You Reach Me* by Rebecca Stead, *How I Live Now* by Meg Rosoff, *The Time Traveler's Wife* by Audrey Niffenegger, and Jacqueline Carey's *Kushiel* series. More information on Suzie can be found on publisher's marketplace (<http://www.publishersmarketplace.com/members/sztownsend81/>). She also keeps a blog at <http://confessionsofawanderingheart.blogspot.com> and tweets @[sztownsend81](https://twitter.com/sztownsend81).

# SPEAKERS



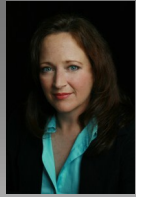
## Jo Davis

Jo Davis spent sixteen years in the public school trenches before she left teaching to pursue her dream of becoming a full-time writer. Jo

currently writes romantic suspense and erotica for NAL and is an active member of the Romance Writers of America. She's been a finalist for the Colorado Romance Writers Award of Excellence, has captured the HOLT Medallion Award of Merit, and has one book optioned as a major motion picture. Jo is currently working on more stories for her sexy Firefighters of Station Five heroes, as well as the SHADO Agency series for NAL Heat. Jo lives in Texas with her husband, Paul, and their two children.

## Julia London

Julia London is the *New York Times* and *USA Today* best selling author of more than a twenty romantic fiction novels. She is the author of the popular *Desperate Debutante* and *Scandalous* historical romance series, as well as several contemporary romances, including *Summer of Two Wishes* and *One Season of Sunshine*. Julia is the recipient of the *RT Bookclub Award* for Best Historical Romance and a four-time finalist for the prestigious RITA award for excellence in romantic fiction. She lives in Austin, Texas. To keep up with all the Julia London news and excerpts, please visit <http://www.julialondon.com>.



## Lorraine Heath

Lorraine Heath is a *New York Times* and *USA Today* bestselling author of more than 50 books, including young adult novels written under the name Rachel

Hawthorne. Her work has been recognized with numerous industry awards including RWA's RITA®, a HOLT medallion, a *Romantic Times* Career Achievement Award, and three *Romantic Times* Reviewer's Choice Awards. Her young adult Dark Guardian series has been optioned for TV. Her latest Victorian novel, *Waking Up With the Duke*, will be released in July 2011.

## Dean Lorey

Screenwriter Dean Lorey was nominated for an Emmy for his work on *Arrested Development*. His film and TV credits include *Major Payne*, *Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> Part Nine: Jason Goes to Hell*, *My Wife and Kids* and many more. His first novel *Nightmare Academy: Monster Hunters* won "Best Children's Novel of the Year in 2008 from the SCIBA. The series is currently in development at Universal Studios and is published in over 20 countries. His third novel, *Nightmare Academy: Monster War* will be published in the US in July.



## Margie Lawson

My day job hats have included: college professor, clinical trainer, sex therapist, Director of an Impotence Clinic, hypnotherapist, and Director of an

Employee Assistance Program. I hold a Master of Science degree in Counseling Psychology with an additional two year post-masters specialization in psychiatric counseling and marriage and family therapy.

## Jaye Wells

After several years as an editor and freelance writer, Jaye Wells finally decided to leave the facts behind and make up her own reality. Her overactive imagination and life-long fascination with the arcane and freakish blended nicely with this new career path. Her Sabina Kane urban fantasy series is a blend of dark themes, grave stakes and wicked humor. Jaye lives in Texas with her saintly husband and devilish son.

