



DARA Bookmark
Volume 15, Issue 9
August 2010

Join us Saturday, August 24th, at 9:30 a.m. at the Holiday Inn Select, U.S. 75 and Campbell, Richardson, TX for our monthly meeting. This month's workshop will be:

CHEMISTRY: HOW TO CREATE THE SIZZLE THAT WILL KEEP YOUR READERS GLUED TO THE PAGE

Presented by Sherry Thomas

Chemistry is one of the most important ingredients in a dynamic, can't-put-down romance. And yet it is also one of the most elusive qualities to define and pin down.

The first half of the workshop aims to present a coherent definition of chemistry: that combustible combination of sexual attraction and intellectual common ground spiced by both emotional connection and emotional conflict. It is my goal to illustrate chemistry in the context of both story development and character arc. I will also make clear what chemistry isn't and highlight mistakes that writers commonly make when trying to generate chemistry.

The second half of the workshop focuses on the specifics of creating and deepening chemistry, from big-scope tools—what kind of character pairing leads to greater chemistry—to paragraph-level detailing for enhancing the hero and heroine's awareness of each other.

EVOKING EMOTIONS

The success of a romance lies in its ability to evoke emotions: The reader must care about the characters. Ever pondered how to give broad appeal to an otherwise deeply flawed character? Or how to make a two-dimensional character full-fledged? This workshop teaches the tools that convey a character's humanity and vulnerability with maximum efficiency and minimum maudlinness.

Sherry Thomas is a Rita-nominated, award-winning author of historical romances. Her debut book, *Private Arrangements*, is a *Publishers Weekly* Best Book of 2008. Her sophomore book, *Delicious*, is a *Library Journal* Best Romance of 2008. Lisa Kleypas calls her “the most powerfully original historical romance author working today.” Her latest release, *His at Night*, arrived on shelves May 25, 2010. AND: Sherry is the 2010 RITA Winner for Best Historical Romance for *Not Quite A Husband*. Congratulations, Sherry!

Sherry’s story is all the more interesting given that English is her second language--she has come a long way from the days when she made her laborious way through Rosemary Roger's *Sweet Savage Love* with an English-Chinese dictionary. She enjoys creating stories. And when she is not writing, she thinks about the zen and zaniness of her profession, plays computer games with her sons, and reads as many fabulous books as she can find.

DARA MEETINGS

DARA meets the fourth Saturday of each month, January through October and the first Saturday in December, at the Holiday Inn Select, Highway 75 and Campbell Road in Richardson, TX.

DARA MEMBERSHIP

DARA membership is open to published and aspiring writers of both fiction and nonfiction works, including the various genres and sub-genres therein, as well as individuals involved in the writing/publishing industry. Meetings are held monthly with the primary purpose of providing support and learning experiences for the writer.

Visitors must be at least 18 years old and may attend up to three meetings before joining DARA. A \$5 visitor's fee is payable at the door. Membership dues are \$45 per year. Memberships are renewed each November. All members of DARA must be members in good standing of Romance Writers of America®.

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We are a non-profit, voluntary association of writers dedicated to raising and maintaining quality in the romance genre and its sub-genres. DARA works to accomplish this through advocating high professional standards and through the dissemination of information on writing and the publishing industry.

DARA BOOKMARK POLICY

The DARA Bookmark is a publication of the Dallas Area Romance Authors. You are encouraged to share it with friends and colleagues. They may subscribe to The Bookmark by sending a blank email to DARABookmarkssubscribe@yahogroups.com.

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