

Twitter Chat: Moving the Story Forward: Revising Your Manuscript and Beyond
November 19, 2012

With editor Kathleen Scheibling (@KScheibling) and author Amanda Renee (@TheAmandaRenee)

sytycwglobal: Starting now -- Past SYTYCW entrant @TheAmandaRenee & her editor @KScheibling are here to chat ab her post-SYTYCW experiences! #sytycw2012

sytycwglobal: .@TheAmandaRenee has also written a great post about revisions & moving the story forward at bit.ly/SYSgIO #sytycw2012

TheAmandaRenee: @sytycwglobal Good Morning Everyone! #sytycw2012

KScheibling: Good morning, all! Also, good evening to our Aussies out there. It's late for you, guys! #sytycw2012

katf42: @TheAmandaRenee @sytycwglobal #sytycw2012 Good morning!

arizangel42: @TheAmandaRenee @sytycwglobal Good Morning #sytycw2012

springstorm: @TheAmandaRenee @sytycwglobal Good morning

sytycwglobal: .@TheAmandaRenee's debut book from #HarlequinAmericanRom BETTING ON TEXAS will be out March 2013. #sytycw2012

KScheibling: We wanted to chat about the process of taking a manuscript from beginning to publication -- the ed / author relationship. #sytycw2012

arizangel78: @KScheibling Hi Kathleen! #sytycw2012

FionaMarsden2: Hi @KScheibling I'm sure it's worth staying up for #sytycw2012

Katf42: @sytycwglobal @TheAmandaRenee #sytycw2012 I'm partial to all things Texas!

KScheibling: Amanda probably can't believe the pub date is coming for Betting on Texas. From SYTYCW last year -- it's been fun! #sytycw2012

TheAmandaRenee: Just don't email your editor a password protected manuscript like I did this morning :) #sytycw2012

TheAmandaRenee: @katf42 I love hearing that! #sytycw2012

sytycwglobal: .@KScheibling & @TheAmandaRenee, would you like to begin with how Amanda's publication journey started? #sytycw2012

arizangel78: @KScheibling So what is the process? #sytycw2012 ;)

TheAmandaRenee: It's been an exciting year and a very informative one. I've learned more than I imagined I would. #sytycw2012

TheAmandaRenee: My journey started with jumping in feet first to the SYTYCW competition, getting the call & then the REVISIONS :) #sytycw2012

KScheibling: What did you think of my revision notes, @TheAmandaRenee? :) Were there surprises there for you? #sytycw2012

TheAmandaRenee: @KScheibling You're notes are amazing! Very thorough. No surprises, but spot on - made the book so much stronger! #sytycw2012

katf42: @KScheibling @TheAmandaRenee #sytycw2012 ... can't imagine the excitement you must be feeling right now

arizangel78: @TheAmandaRenee What was the biggest learning curve for you? #sytycw2012

TheAmandaRenee: My biggest learning curve was speeding up the storyline #sytycw2012

Katf42: @TheAmandaRenee #sytycw2012 Can explain that a bit more?

KScheibling: Pacing is v important in a 60K word story. You need to trim scenes that don't...move the story forward! #sytycw2012

TheAmandaRenee: Speeding up the storyline meaning - the first kiss didn't happen until chap 6 or 7 and it needed to happen sooner @katf42 #sytycw2012

KScheibling: There was so much I liked about Betting on Texas, but it's rare to see a mss that wouldn't benefit from some editorial input. #sytycw2012

KScheibling: It's important for an ed to find writers who are willing to work WITH us. It's a give and take rel. We have the same goal! #sytycw2012

arizangel78: @KScheibling I can't imagine that you find too many that aren't willing to work with you! #sytycw2012

TheAmandaRenee: @katf42 I'll let you in a secret. I received my first cover on Thurs and enlarged it to a 16x20 and framed it :) #sytycw2012

TheAmandaRenee: As an author, your MS is very one sided. Receiving feedback and notes can only improve the book. #sytycw2012

katf42: @TheAmandaRenee #sytycw2012 @KScheibling I can see doing the same thing. It would look so good on my office wall! Love it!

JenDrogell: @TheAmandaRenee @katf42 of course you did!! (re the cover) Congratulations!! #sytycw2012

arizangel78: @TheAmandaRenee I am not going to lie, I would be doing the same thing! It's super exciting! #sytycw2012

TheAmandaRenee: I have to ask myself all the time, "How does this move the story to the next level?" #sytycw2012

katf42: @TheAmandaRenee #sytycw2012 I get that.

sytycwglobal: Good tip! RT @TheAmandaRenee: I have to ask myself all the time, "How does this move the story to the next level" #sytycw2012

arizangel78: @TheAmandaRenee That is a really great question to ask! #sytycw2012

arizangel78: @KScheibling What elements do you as an editor look at? Besides pacing #sytycw2012

KScheibling: I love natural sounding dialogue. When characters speak it should not sound stilted. @TheAmandaRenee s advice is to read it aloud. #sytycw2012

TheAmandaRenee: I also have a word list of my most common overused word and I do a FIND to eliminate them. Just, Only, All, Back, Step etc #sytycw2012

arizangel78: @KScheibling @TheAmandaRenee Reading out loud does make it sound different than just reading it in your head. Good Tip. #sytycw2012

KScheibling: Ask yourself 'do I need this scene'? If you can't answer that, it's prob time to trim! #sytycw2012

springstorm: @KScheibling I find myself asking that all the time #sytycw2012

TheAmandaRenee: Overused words stand out on a page and slow down your story. #sytycw2012

GeriKrotow: When a reputable editor speaks...RT@KScheibling I love natural sounding dialogue. When chars speak it should not sound stilted. #sytycw2012

TheAmandaRenee: Reading dialogue allowed is a must to me - you can hear the cadence of each word that you wouldn't hear in your head. #sytycw2012

KScheibling: When I see a word repeated a lot I do a FIND, too. Repetitive words and phrases take me out of a story. Almost as bad as typos. #sytycw2012

katf42: @TheAmandaRenee #sytycw2012 @KScheibling This is a great idea! I do that with words I know I use wrong in my hurry to type your/you're etc.

TheAmandaRenee: I have about a 50 word list of my most commonly overused words, and it will vary book to book. #sytycw2012

TheAmandaRenee: I also have Word read my MS to me. It takes some getting used, but I can pick up something missing easier by listening to it. #sytycw2012

KScheibling: It's a common problem, even among seasoned writers. Word and FIND can help, but nothing beats a close read to find word repetitions. #sytycw2012

TheAmandaRenee: I outline a chapter before I write it. Even if it's a few key phrases. It keeps me on track. #sytycw2012

CNewtonAuthor: #sytycw2012 so you're not talking about phrases a character would say throughout example: liar, liar or Holy sugar....correct?

Katf42: @KScheibling #sytycw2012 from your side is this a deal killer... or semi overlooked if good voice/story/dialogue

Katf42: @KScheibling #sytycw2012 I don't mean being sloppy, but certain things being missed...

KScheibling: Word reps are not a deal killer. :-)) It's part of craft - something that can be learned. #sytycw2012

KScheibling: I'll take a great story with word reps over a grammatically perfect blah plot. Word reps can be fixed! #sytycw2012

KScheibling: But to impress an editor, always hand in the cleanest mss you can, especially as a first time writer trying to break in. #sytycw2012

Katf42: @KScheibling #sytycw2012 Of course!! I call that panic that I'm going to miss something! LOL

sytycwglobal: @TheAmandaRenee Did anything surprise you about the publication or editing process? @KScheibling #sytycw2012

TheAmandaRenee: The amount of revisions - I knew there would be a formal revision, but I didn't know about line edits & copy edits #sytycw2012

TheAmandaRenee: You have three shots at really perfecting a book and that's something I wasn't aware of. #sytycw2012

KScheibling: Yes! RT @TheAmandaRenee You have three shots at really perfecting a book and that's something I wasn't aware of. #sytycw2012

arizangel78: @TheAmandaRenee Do you write out complete sentences? Or do you jot thoughts down for the chapter? #justcurious how you do outline? #sytycw2012

TheAmandaRenee: @arizangel78 Just thoughts and phrases #sytycw2012

arizangel78: @TheAmandaRenee okay explain line edits and copy edits for a layman> me! #sytycw2012

TheAmandaRenee: Line edits are where your editor painstakingly goes over each and every line with a fine tooth comb. #sytycw2012

KScheibling: The revision is the biggest part, tho. The line edit is where the ed has to make sure she's keeping the author voice while smoothing out the language. #sytycw2012

KScheibling: Hopefully, it's not too painful. :-) @TheAmandaRenee Line edits - your editor painstakingly goes over each and every line. #sytycw2012

TheAmandaRenee: @KScheibling I love your line edits! They have smiley faces on them :) #sytycw2012

arizangel78: @KScheibling @TheAmandaRenee I would think that would be more painful for the editor than the author! #sytycw2012

KScheibling A smiley face can go a long way. It's fun to point out the prts of a mss that are really working well. #sytycw2012

TheAmandaRenee: The entire revision process is my favorite part. I love the feedback. #sytycw2012

sytycwglobal: .@TheAmandaRenee Is there anything you learned from editing BETTING ON TEXAS that you've used for future books? #sytycw2012

TheAmandaRenee: Yes to write longer sentences! I wasn't aware of it until Kathleen pointed it out. And to @sytycwglobal #sytycw2012

FionaMarsden2: @TheAmandaRenee @sytycwglobal That's funny because I tend to write really long sentences and am trying to shorten. #happymedium #sytycw2012

KScheibling: Revision notes and the line edit should always point out the positive. Authors want to know what working as well as what needs help #sytycw2012

arizangel78: @TheAmandaRenee I have heard some authors say they dreaded the revision process but sounds like with the right editor it can be fun! #sytycw2012

TheAmandaRenee: There is a HUGE difference between critique and criticism - Critique helps grow the story. Criticism can only kill it. #sytycw2012

sytycwglobal: @KScheibling What was it about @TheAmandaRenee's SYTYCW contest entry that stood out to you for followup? #sytycw2012

KScheibling: Amanda's story was TOTALLY a #harlequinamericanrom. She did her research and knew the right line to target. #sytycw2012

KScheibling: Also, @TheAmandaRenee wrote a great hero for Betting on Texas. Her strong characterization hooked me! #sytycw2012

katf42: @KScheibling Which we have heard over and over again since the beginning of #sytycw2012 know and target your line

TheAmandaRenee: @KScheibling I didn't know this! Thank you! #sytycw2012

JessicaBaughma2: @KScheibling @TheAmandaRenee Thanks for all the great tips! #sytycw2012

TheAmandaRenee: I also learned for me it's easier if I write the cleanest possible 1st draft, then edit down, vs a sloppy draft & adding to it. #sytycw2012

Khaleda_Ali: @TheAmandaRenee How crucial is accurate formatting of a manuscript, when submitting for consideration? Thank you #sytycw2012

KScheibling: Formatting is an easy thing to figure out, so I consider it very important. #sytycw2012

TheAmandaRenee: @arizangel78 Honestly, I'm looking forward to them on the book I submitted today. They can only help you as an author. #sytycw2012

remontemurro: #sytycw2012 Amanda, you're proving that writing is all about rewriting. So true. How long does it take you to write a first draft?

TheAmandaRenee: @rebmontemurro There's never a perfect 1st draft - My initial draft is two weeks. #sytycw2012

katf42: @TheAmandaRenee @rebmontemurro #sytycw2012 Two weeks to WRITE? Wow!

TheAmandaRenee: @katf42 It's only a 1st draft. There are many drafts. #sytycw2012

katf42: @TheAmandaRenee #sytycw2012 Still impressed!

springstorm: @TheAmandaRenee @katf42 glad to see that said. Many many drafts! At least for me anyway #sytycw2012

sytycwglobal: .@TheAmandaRenee What advice would you give to this year's #sytycw2012 entrants who have gotten requests for full manuscripts? #sytycw2012

sytycwglobal: And @KScheibling, same question :) What's your advice for #sytycw2012 entrants who've gotten requests -- or for those who didn't?

TheAmandaRenee: My advice is to give this everything you have, polish, read the entire MS out loud, and double check your research/facts. #sytycw2012

KScheibling: My advice to #sytycw2012 entrants who did NOT get requests would be to not give up! Keep working on your craft. 1/2 #sytycw2012

KScheibling: There are still lots of opportunities -- @HarlequinBooks does pitches and fast tracks, etc. Stay connected with us! #sytycw2012

KScheibling: For those that received requests this year, be patient! We'll get back to you as soon as we can. #lotsofreadingtodo #sytycw2012

TheAmandaRenee: And to really double check my dialogue, I'll record it and play it back. If it sounds corny, out it goes. #sytycw2012

Arizangel78: @KScheibling @HarlequinBooks The Harlequin boards are a really great place to do that at! #sytycw2012

TheAmandaRenee: @HarlequinBooks and @sytycwglobal offer the most amazing opportunities - take advantage of them and learn from them. #sytycw2012

JessicaBaughma2: @KScheibling Are words like backward/backwards and toward/towards all acceptable? Thanks! #sytycw2012

KScheibling: backward/backwards – our copy editors will fix according to where the book is published. I'm not worried about this at revision stage.

JessicaBaughma2: @KScheibling @TheAmandaRenee Should an author strive for equal parts narrative and dialogue? Thanks. #sytycw2012

TheAmandaRenee: I try not to go more than a page or two without dialogue. It slows the pacing too much in series romance. #sytycw2012

KScheibling: For me, equal parts narrative / dialogue works. Most important, tho, is whatever works for the story! Whatever seems natural. #sytycw2012

springstorm: @KScheibling :) I'm a narrative gal...dialogue when necessary kind of thing but working on improving that #sytycw2012

katf42: @KScheibling #sytycw2012 So if it takes us a bit to get the MS to the ed. is that okay?

KScheibling: If you need to polish up your request from #sytycw2012 we will be patient, too. :-) We just hope to see it soon. #sytycw2012

sytycwglobal: Almost time to wrap up our chat. Any final thoughts @TheAmandaRenee & @KScheibling? #sytycw2012

SusanVicBooker: @TheAmandaRenee @KScheibling @sytycwglobal Thanks for this chat, very helpful, especially the advice on pace! #sytycw2012

Katf42: @sytycwglobal @TheAmandaRenee @KScheibling #sytycw2012 Thank you for your time and all the great information Excited for you @TheAmandaRenee

TheAmandaRenee: The tools are at your fingertips - The editors at @HarlequinBooks are very accessible through the forums #sytycw2012

TheAmandaRenee: And read the series you want to write for. I read every book in the American Romance line so I always stay on top of it. #sytycw2012

KScheibling: Thanks to everyone for joining in. Best of luck to those who received requests for #sytycw2012. The rest - keep at it! #sytycw2012

sytycwglobal: Sadly it's time to end today's chat. Thanks to @KScheibling and @TheAmandaRenee for joining us & sharing their expertise! #sytycw2012

sytycwglobal: Remember to read @TheAmandaRenee's blog post "Moving the Story Forward" at sytycw.com: <http://bit.ly/SYSgIO> #sytycw2012

katf42: @KScheibling #sytycw2012 so do we! Thank you again for your time wonderful information.

TheAmandaRenee: Thank you everyone for coming out today! Great questions! #sytycw2012
KScheibling: And @TheAmandaRenee -- I'll get right on those revisions. :-) #havereadingtodo
#authorwantsherrevnotes #sytycw2012

FionaMarsden2: Thankyou for the opportunity. Lots of useful hints. #sytycw2012 @sytycwglobal
@TheAmandaRenee @KScheibling

TheAmandaRenee: Happy writing everyone! And thank you again for having us :) #sytycw2012

Khaleda_Ali: @sytycwglobal @TheAmandaRenee @KScheibling Thank you for all your advice. This has been extremely helpful. #sytycw2012

flowermonkeyz: @sytycwglobal @TheAmandaRenee @KScheibling Thanks for your time and great advice! Now, back to writing!

Arizangel78: @TheAmandaRenee @KScheibling @sytycwglobal Thank you so much for taking time to answer! I really enjoyed this chat, learned some too!

sytycwglobal: And of course look for @TheAmandaRenee's debut #HarlequinAmericanRom BETTING ON TEXAS March 2013! #sytycw2012

sytycwglobal: .@TheAmandaRenee revealed the cover for BETTING ON TEXAS last week, too: pic.twitter.com/BvH1QDz7 Yay cowboy! #sytycw2012

sytycwglobal: And of course thanks to all of you for joining us today! #sytycw2012