

The Authors Corner by Dutch Rhudy

Welcome to the fifth edition of The Authors Corner.

The last four weeks were hectic, and it looks like this month will be as well. The first thing I did after the last edition of The Authors Corner was to get my books placed on this website. Although they are not a part of the Roaring Falls Series, I added the covers, blurbs, and links under 'Published Works.'

I closed last month by mentioning an idea for the opening novel in the Roaring Falls series to bounce off my critique groups. Rather than presenting my concept to the open groups, a private mentors group meeting preceded the other groups.

All four members present became heavily involved in my new approach, and we were able to hash out and perfect the concept. The only problem we encountered after polishing the idea, was it needed a backstory of its own to make sense. The type of backstory that cannot be weaved into the storyline.

Each of the members said they would work on it and we could discuss it after the critique group meeting. I chose not to mention what we were working on at the meeting, but we added to more professional developmental editors to our after meeting private talk.

When we met again after the next critique meeting, I had put everything together into a nice neat little package to present. It is still in rough draft form, but very few changes were necessary. Although nothing is ever etched in stone, here is what we came up with.

As much as I dislike adding a prologue to a work of fiction, in this case it works out well, even if the reader skips over the whole thing, as most do. What the prologue does is bring the 1820s opening of the story up to the present day.

The prologue opens with a welcome of guests to the Roaring Falls History Museum, and the narrator is introduced as the Curator of primary source documents. Then a brief history of the museum and how it acquired the many documents they preserved for storage.

Once again I retyped the suggested changes and presented that to our private group after the the critique meeting. I should have waited, because our developmental editor joined us again. His exact words were "boring, no action, nothing of interest."

He suggested giving the museum visitors something to do, and add a problem or two. Another member felt the discovery of old lost documents should be expounded on, in an exciting way. We talked about several options, and put the ideas together in a short outline.

With everything we added, the developmental editor studied and marked up the outline. He broke the prologue apart and moved almost everything about the museums benefactor and documents to a second opening heading he first called an introduction, then changed it to a dedication.

It was getting close to midnight, so he asked me to rewrite the prologue and dedication, building it up from the outline as we talked about. He asked me to meet him at his office with the new work and chapter one, and he would go over all during his lunch hour.

This was probably the most important lunch in my life. After seeing chapter one, he scratched out the one and changed it to a two, and told me to make chapter one a summary of the entire opening novel.

We met again two days later for lunch and he made a few corrections to my work, and added several lines which brought the purpose of the prologue in tune with the story. He went through the first three chapters with only a few comments and formatting changes, which he instructed me to carry throughout the novel.

Along with my day job, and working on the Roaring Falls series, I got hit with a contract job to write a travelogue, which is supposed to only take two weeks. To add insult to injury, at our first Writers' Guild meeting of the month, I agreed to do NaNoWriMo this year.

This brings me up to tonight, and I'm only about one-fourth of the way through the travelogues outline. Most of the provided research is erroneous, and totally misses the purpose of the story. Only the commonly well known places appear in the outline, and this book is supposed to describe those wonderful places not found in travel brochures.

Considering the amount of work I must accomplish throughout the rest of this month, and the fact I will be totally engrossed in NaNoWriMo next month. I'm certain I will not have time to work on the Roaring Falls series, so will have nothing to say about it in November.

Depending upon how well I do in the NaNoWriMo challenge, I may or may not have something to share in December. I still have not received my earlier draft back from the first developmental editor, but so much has changed, I guess it doesn't matter much anymore. Although I would like to see what suggestions she has to offer.

Please check out my 'Published Works' page to see my cover designs. They are listed at the bottom of the index page as 'stand-alone publications.' Remember, I only modified the pro drawn cover for the Boot & Milk Balls short story. All the rest are my own design work.

Wish me luck with NaNoWriMo, I only have two weeks to finish the travelogue and come up with a story concept and outline. If you don't see me in December, I'll be back next year.

Respectfully submitted
Dutch Rhudy