

## **The Authors Corner**

by Dutch Rhudy

Welcome to the The Authors Corner.

Surprise, I'm back, and with wonderful news too. Old Dutch Rhudy is a NaNoWriMo Winner!

I must admit, I surprised myself as well. What little information my outline provided could not carry a novel length story. So I scrolled through my storyline concepts folder and picked out a few scene ideas for short stories, to see if any would help me get the ball rolling.

Before I continue about my NaNoWriMo winning novel, I have some unfinished business from October. I also received several e-mails on my birthday, a few with questions about the programs I use, I will share here, and other topics I responded to via e-mail.

Thanks to everyone for the birthday cards and wishes. All of the cards were funny, but I had to chuckle at a couple of e-cards containing a virus or malware. I'm sure the senders did not know, so no hard feelings. No harm done, all of my computers run Debian GNU/Linux.

I was totally swamped through to the end of October with the travelogue. This only left me four days to prepare for NaNoWriMo. Then in the middle of November, my early Roaring Falls pro edits finally came back with more red than black on the pages.

Most of the research and writing programs I use on GNU/Linux, the programmers have graciously ported over so Windows users can enjoy our quality free programs. A few of you already know I no longer endorse Kabikaboo, the program I touted for years. Their latest upgrade added serious data destroying glitches, so they are now history.

This was actually a good thing for me, because I tried a program I considered useless the first few times I saw it. I did not realize just how powerful the FreeMind mind mapping program really was, until I began using it. I honestly don't know how I lived without it, it is that good.

For my rough draft writing work, until recently, after finding FreeMind, I used a simple program similar to Notepad, called Gedit. This way I could copy notes to a standard plain text format. I still use Gedit between formatted text and FreeMind when I want to keep it simple.

Other than the first rough draft, all of my editing and rewriting is done using either OpenOffice Writer or LibreOffice Writer. Even back when I was using Windows, I chose these two programs to get away from the many problems I encountered in msWord.

All of my covers are created using GIMP, which is short for GNU Image Manipulation Program. I like it as well as versions of PhotoShop I have owned, and prefer some of the features it offers over those provided by PhotoShop. It is ported over for Windows users also.

Getting back to my NaNoWriMo Winning novel, and the many scene files I weeded through. I felt I was spinning my wheels in mud and not getting anywhere. Not one of my short scene sketches were working, and none had enough substance to make a novel.

No matter how many ways I tried to incorporate more than two scenes together, they were just too far removed from the original outline I started developing. At best, all I had going for me was a patience proper and prudence prim working girl who secretly sang at a nightclub.

I will never admit to suffering from writers block, because I know how carry on, and did just that. I sat down and began adding the characters and their sketches. I needed to give the singer a day job, and those characters who knew her proper ways.

Next I needed someone who could be a threat to her, a person who would stumble across her secret life as a singer. This person would also need a job, and a more than valid reason for being in the story.

The singer as little miss proper was intended to be my protagonist, the main character of the story. After all, the whole story revolves around her, but it just wasn't working out that way. So I made her antagonist the protagonist and demoted her to deuteragonist, and added a tritagonist as the protagonist's helper.

A well deserved break was needed to clear my head of all the short story sketches I read over the past week. I took this time to design a cover to place on the NaNoWriMo website, and used my proposed working title "A Secret in Ash Brooke."

The city of Ash Brooke was a name I researched before choosing Roaring Falls, and with no time to research another name, I used Ash Brooke. My protagonist needed an occupation, a boss, a place to live, and also a way to be introduced in the story as a main character.

I did have one short story sketch about a trapped car I placed in my outline, but as the story unfolded during NaNoWriMo I removed it to follow a better plot line. Trying to come up with the opening for the story was keeping me up at night. Then it came to me in a dream.

The entire story unfolded in that split-second dream state, and I was up the rest of the night rewriting my entire outline. A newspaper pressman returning home from the war, got his old job back, but due to the war, had to wear many hats, one as a reporter.

I also gave him a sleuthing hobby, with a detective as his mentor, which prompted him to observe the actions of those around him. This led to his curiosity about the garment mill manager who worked across the street from his new apartment.

The more he closed in on her, the more twists and turns she made to hide her identity. A few more plot lines and characters were added to carry the story forward. The perfect ending did not evolve until I was well into the novel, and was taken from local true accounts.

During the writing process I made numerous notes to myself of things I needed to add in earlier chapters to make later comments have a greater purpose. I am currently in the process of rewriting "A Secret in Ash Brooke" and will submit to an editor soon.

Respectfully submitted  
Dutch Rhudy