

The Authors Corner

by Dutch Rhudy

Happy New Year, and welcome to The Authors Corner.

My top news for this month, after I finished a rewrite of “A Secret in Ash Brooke,” I placed it with a former member of our private group for editing. Our group disbanded during the holidays, primarily over conflicts of interest.

The local developmental editor only performed a light edit, so we could get back to work on the Roaring Falls Series. Although my NaNoWriMo novel could be improved further, he felt my series was more important, and wanted this novel out of the way of progress.

After another rewrite with his few changes, I was instructed to publish. He said it was good enough to represent what kind of work I do under the pressure of a short deadline. While he was reviewing my Roaring Falls Series, I did just that and began formatting for publishing.

He gave me several compliments on pulling such a complex novel together, starting only a week before NaNoWriMo. Bringing over twenty characters together in harmony, and utilizing over fifteen locations, plus boasting many businesses in each. He felt the scenes were remarkably well written.

The ‘History of Roaring Falls’ book I assembled as a base reference tool, is what we worked on together over the past two weeks. It is one thing to have an overarching outline to cover an entire multi-novel series, but something else entirely in bringing a town to life by telling its entire history. Every major historical detail of a modern thriving city is mentioned.

Each of the individual outlines were compared to the overarching outline, and then checked against the rough draft’s second rewrite. A few things not previously mentioned in the history book were added, considered important enough they should be mentioned.

Here is an example of how a jacket blurb may read:

The modern community of Roaring Falls boasts of a heritage that began more than 150 years ago, when the first trappers and early pioneers settled in the newly acquired Indian territory. These families were soon joined by the first few settlers; afterward, when the area was surveyed and opened for habitation, development of the community began, and has continued to grow to the present day.

This thriving city clings to its earlier agricultural background while giving the appearance as a recent development. Several century-old homes blend unnoticed with their contemporary new neighbors. Well-preserved early historical structures, including two stone Churches constructed in the 1850s, and Stren’s Mill completed in 1866, are a reminder of Roaring Falls elegant past.

The three magnificent waterfalls, for which the city was named; its pristine lakes and lush forests, draw tourists from all corners of the globe. Shoppers flock to the massive new mall at

Gray's Crossing, and enjoy visiting the many quaint shops and stores in the Old City Area, boasting of a gentle, simpler lifestyle from days of yore.

Writing this history book, allowed me to become a part of the city and its heritage. To breath the air, hear the sounds, and live through several generations as if I was there. It has allowed Roaring Falls to become a part of who I really am, and much is drawn from my own families history.

The first part of this coming week, I will completely rewrite the History Book, with light formatting, so it looks and reads more like a finished book. Although not intended for publication, this book may be issued at a later time, possibly as a prequel.

I still have much work ahead of me in developing the individual scene sketches. Next week I plan on visually designing the many homes for the early Roaring Falls settlers. I never know exactly how a scene is going to play out until I sit down and write the rough draft for it.

Often, having visual references to go by as I write, jogs storyline ideas I may not think of otherwise. A photo or drawing also helps with the descriptions of the family homes, without trying to visualize same from text only written structure sketches.

A few early maps placed on the Roaring Falls website did not get removed, since they were not considered spoilers. I hope to get drawings of the first homes in Roaring Falls, because pictures are not used in novels, and I don't see they could be considered spoilers.

We already know from the number of changes, and using the museum curator approach to telling the story. The publication date for the first book in the series will once again be pushed up. Trying to present a story in this fashion is a most tricky undertaking, and we keep making several changes in how it is handled.

One thing for certain, using this approach makes for an easier and lighter read. More importantly, it cuts down on the long journal quotes as found in my first rough drafts. Bringing in lines from other peoples diaries and journals, keeping the topics together, has added uniformity and a pleasant flow to the story. So we are getting there, a line at a time.

Respectfully submitted
Dutch Rhudy