

Presentation Proposal
Houston Romance Writers
February 2, 2011

Date of Presentation: November 5, 2011

Names and backgrounds of Presenters



Hope Ramsay is a two-time finalist in the Golden Heart. Her debut novel *Welcome to Last Chance* (Grand Central Publishing -- Forever Romance) will be available March 1, 2011. Her second Last Chance story, *Home at Last Chance*, will be in bookstores, September 2011. Hope made her first sale in February 2010, selling the four-book Last Chance series to Forever Romance. She writes about writing at the RubySlippedSisterhood.com blog. She had been writing for two decades before she made her first sale.

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Carla Kempert is a two-time Put Your Heart in a Book finalist with four finished manuscripts to her credit. She is also a board member of the Valley Forge Romance Writers, and served as contest chair and Pro Liaison for the chapter three years running. She is Hope Ramsay's critique partner, as well as the Lalala Sister of Jaye Garland a member of the Houston chapter of RWA. She contributes regularly to the writing blog: Blame It On the Muse.

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Title of Workshop:

The Secrets of Plotting -- (or how to drive your pantsier critique partner to drink)

Summary of the Presentation:

Hope is a plotter. She organizes everything. She has charts, graphs, turning points, and even a database to keep her stories straight. Hope is seriously OCD.

Carla, not so much.

So, how do these two critique partners who have writing processes that are very different get along so well? A mutual interest in baseball and knitting help. But they also have taught each other.

Hope will present her uniquely over-organized and over-analyzed approach to plotting a story. She'll cover the scintillating topics of Goal, Conflict and Motivation charts and three-act story structure. Carla will talk about how learning this stuff has changed and improved her writing, even though she was dragged kicking and screaming into a grudging appreciation of advanced plotting.

Carla will talk about how she draws three-dimensional characters out of the ether, without any props like databases and character interviews, but with a huge help from

popular music. Hope will explain how Carla sends her endless U-tube links to songs that move her emotionally.

Hand out Materials

Hand out materials will include:

- 1) A blank GMC chart that Hope will talk about
- 2) A blank plot turning point chart that Hope will talk about
- 3) A visual representation of three act story structure that Hope will talk about

Carla doesn't need no stinking charts and pictures, because she's a (almost reformed) pantsner. She may, however, expansively discuss the soundtrack from her latest Work in Progress.

Conflict Chart

EXTERNAL CONFLICT – DRIVES PLOT			INTERNAL CONFLICT – DRIVES THE EMOTIONS		
	HEROINE	HERO		HEROINE	HERO
NEED: What does the character need to do, attain or prove?			NEED: What is the character's gut-level need		
MOTIVATION: Why does the character need to prove or attain this thing?			MOTIVATION: What in the characters past created this need?		
OBSTACLES: What stands in the way of attaining this goal or need?			OBSTACLES: Why can't the character have what she needs?		
GOAL: What is the character's solution for fulfilling this need?			GOAL: What is the character's solution (misguided) to fulfilling the need		
STORY QUESTION			WHY THE CHARACTER'S PLAN IS NOT GOING TO WORK?		

(*Based on Deb Dixon's Goal, Conflict and Motivation & the Carolyn Green's Prescription for Plotting

AN OULINE IN THREE ACTS

<p>ACT 1</p> <p>The Set up</p> <p>I</p>	<p>Inciting incident – What starts the story moving? Does it have Conflict? Does it clearly state one of the character’s external goals?</p>	
	<p>Scene leading to turning point</p>	
	<p>Turning Point – The point at which the story moves in another direction. The h/H join forces. They are forced to be together. The story question is raised here.</p>	
<p>ACT 2</p> <p>Rising and Falling Action</p>	<p>Raising the Stakes: What happens that makes the character’s problem more difficult, or their goal harder to attain.</p>	
	<p>Mid Point: A crisis occurs. This is the point of no return. The point at which the H/h are starting to realize they are falling in love.</p>	
	<p>Raising the Stakes: This is a place where the problems become truly large. This might relate to the first raising of the stakes. Often an external event that leads to the internal crisis.</p>	

ACT 3 The Resolution	Crisis. This is the point where the inner conflict becomes insurmountable. A difficult choice involved, or the exposure of a secret	
	Climax/Resolution: How are you going to surmount the Crisis in the emotional internal story?	
	Final Scene	

