

May 19, 2019

HOTSHOTS!

sinc-heartoftexas.com



CRIMES OF GREED

Note: Our monthly meeting is on the third Sunday this month, so as not to conflict with Mother's Day celebrations!

On May 19, 2019 our guest speakers will be Det. Matt Conley and Det. Mike Morgovnik, both in APD's Financial Crimes Unit and on the US Secret Services' Central Texas Financial Crimes Task Force.

Are you writing about bank fraud? Money laundering? Cybercrimes? Join us Sunday, May 19th when Det. Conley and Det. Morgovnik will share their stories and their incredible amount of experience in Financial Crimes.

ARE YOU A WRITER?

Our newsletter is undergoing a change, if you haven't already noticed. We have a new format and will be introducing new content.

Why is the title of this article, "Are you a Writer?" Because we need contributors. Whether you have an idea for a one-time article or a monthly column, we'd like to hear about it!

Although you won't be paid, you will receive kudos (and isn't that just as good as money?).

Contact kelly@kellycochran.com

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A pleasure to
meet you!

Meet Our Members



N.M. Cedeño

President
Sisters in Crime, Heart of Texas Chapter

N.M. Cedeño (The N stands for Noreen) writes mystery short stories and novels. Her mysteries vary from traditional mysteries, to suspense, to science fiction in genre. Her romantic suspense novel, *All In Her Head*, was published in 2014 by Lucky Bat Books. Her science fiction mystery *A Reasonable Expectation of Privacy* was published by Analog Science Fiction and Fact Magazine in 2012 and nominated for best short story in the 2013 Analog Readers Poll. The story tied for third place in the poll. Her second novel, a near-future mystery entitled *For the Children's Sake*, was published in 2015 and selected for a book award by the East Texas Writers Guild in 2016. She is currently working on her Bad Vibes Removal Services Series which includes two sets of shorts stories and the novel, *The Walls Can Talk*.

Why do you like mysteries?

I like mysteries for a lot of reasons. I am fascinated by the psychology behind murder and what drives people to murder. *How do people reach the point of breaking the social rule that says not to kill other people? What reasons would someone think good enough to risk taking another person's life?* I want to know. Mysteries contain a challenge for me: to solve the case before the end of the book if I can. However, I prefer books that make it very hard for me to solve the mystery. If I can predict the entire plot by chapter three, I'll probably never read that author again. I read mysteries because I prefer books with a resolution at the end, where justice is served and the guilty are caught. I like mysteries because I am interested in science, history, psychology, sociology, the future, and the present. The sheer breadth of subjects and time periods that mysteries can cover is awesome. The mystery genre can include books from all other genres as well, from fantasy to romance.

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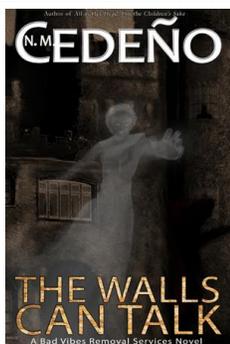
How many times do you rewrite your first paragraph in your books?

For me, reviewing the first paragraph of the book is about making sure that I started the story properly, in a way that will hook the reader. I write the first paragraph once on the first draft of the book. Typically, in that first draft I write the story in chronological order. Then I review the entire book in the second draft, focusing particularly on where and how I started the story, including that first paragraph. Nearly 100 percent of the time, I move the entire first chapter. Sometimes it becomes a flashback. Sometimes it becomes information dispersed later in the story regarding what happened before the story began. In any case, the first paragraph changes significantly between the first and second draft of the book after I decide that I started the story in the wrong place. Generally, I do a third draft before the book goes to beta readers. I review the book again after the beta readers comment. Then, the book goes to the editor, who may or may not suggest tweaks to the first paragraph. Finally, I will review the first page several times, looking for errors, before the book goes to print. So, that first paragraph usually has two main drafts, the first one that I move or throw out later, and the second that I keep with a few minor changes before publication.

Have you hidden secrets (Easter eggs) in your writing?

I hide Easter eggs in my books for my family and friends all the time. Here are a few examples. I named a cat in my next book, *Degrees of Deceit* (coming fall 2019), after a cat a friend of mine had. I set a dinner in my first book, *All in Her Head*, at a Colombian restaurant that I like in Carrollton, Texas. I used part of the name of my high school to name a school in one of my books. Also, the main character in *All in Her Head* is a recent college graduate working her first job. The job I gave her is very similar to the position I had right out of college. Details that only friends and family will notice are fun to hide in books.

N. M. Cedeño's Books



The Walls Can Talk is the first book in the Bad Vibes Removal Service paranormal mystery series.

The Hanovers inherited an ancient Irish castle . . . that's been moved to central Texas. When things move and go bump in the night, is the explanation treasure hunting teenagers or something more malicious? With a terrifying ghostly presence haunting their days and break-ins threatening their nights, the Hanovers reach out to a private detective, Montgomery of Montgomery Investigations and his employees at Bad Vibes Removal Service.

The second book in the series, *Degrees of Deceit*, will be out Fall/Winter of 2019. Here series, along with her short stories and non-series books are available on [Amazon](#).

THE INDIE AUTHOR

BY KELLY COCHRAN

A monthly column for those who aspire to become an independent author

This new monthly column will cover my road to publication as an indie author and at times may welcome guests to write about their experience as an indie author. We hope to help those considering self-publication by providing encouragement and support in navigating the road ahead.

Independent Filmmaker

– The works are generally respected and considered creative

Independent Musician

– Referred to as Independent Artists, most are admired, considered hip and cool

Independent Author

– Seen as less prestigious, unworthy of being published by a traditional publisher

Because of the stigma associated with self-publishing, my decision to become an independent author back in 2012 was not easily made. I am happy with my decision and hope everyone will one day see the true value of independent authors.

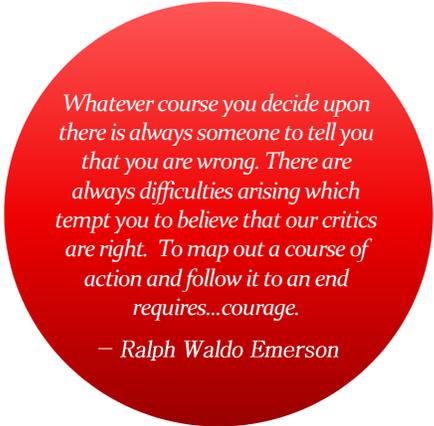
If you choose to go the independent route, you can help change the perceptions of independent authors by creating a quality product.

Pay attention to the details. Your book not only represents you but represents all independent authors.

Whether you are a writer of fiction or non-fiction, the path to becoming an independent author is the same, though the stops along the way may vary. This column will share the stops I made on my way to publication and just as important, the stops I never made.

I will cover both the good and bad of my publishing experience. Upcoming columns will include topics like ISBNs, working with the Library of Congress, writing software, cover creation, and much more.

Becoming an Independent Author is a little scary, but very exciting. The feeling you get when you read the words “The End” on the back page of your first published book is worth the journey, no matter how it gets published!



Whatever course you decide upon there is always someone to tell you that you are wrong. There are always difficulties arising which tempt you to believe that our critics are right. To map out a course of action and follow it to an end requires...courage.

– Ralph Waldo Emerson

SPECIAL EVENTS

MURDER IN THE SECOND PEW BY K.P. GRESHAM – FREE!

Sisters in Crime supports members in many ways, including teaching authors about the craft and business of writing. K. P. Gresham says, “Thanks to SinC, I’m learning that reviews are the life blood of a writer’s marketing plan. I need your help!”

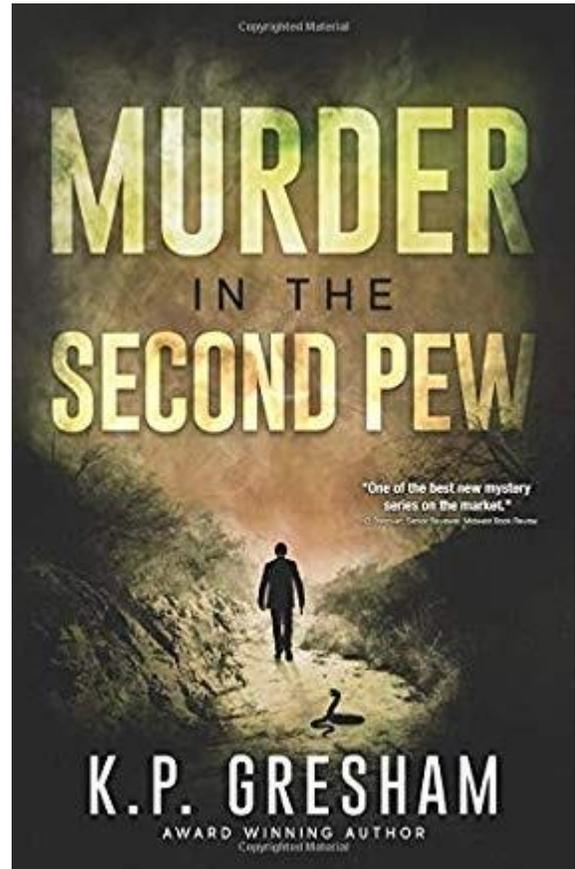
She is releasing the eBook version of *Murder in the Second Pew*, the second in her Pastor Matt Hayden Mystery Series, for FREE from May 18th to May 23rd on Amazon. Posting a review is not required, but she hopes folks will provide her with feedback. If you decide to post a review on Amazon, please be honest. “Feedback is important, and I need to hear your comments, good or bad,” she says.

“I’m following in the footsteps of fellow SinC member, Patrick Kelly (*Yes Only Means Yes* and *The Joe Robbins Mystery Series*) and providing you with a link that takes you directly to the correct Amazon review page.”

[Amazon Review Page for Murder in the Second Pew](#)

K.P. Gresham shares why she is doing this free giveaway, “*Murder on the Third Try* is being released on Friday, June 28th! If you would like to be a member of my launch team, please let me know at kpgresham@aol.com. You will get a free pre-publication eBook copy, and instructions from me on how and where to write your review. Again, please be honest in your reviews.”

Click the book cover for *Murder in the Second Pew* to purchase the book now. But if you want the eBook for free, please wait until May 18th to download!



K.P. Gresham is author of the Pastor Matt Hayden Mystery Series and *Three Days at Wrigley Field*. To learn more about her books or to join her email list, please visit www.kpgresham.com.

(Editor’s note – Link to download the book and leave a review are active on the digital version of this newsletter on our website www.sinc-heartoftexas.com/hotshots/posts)

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Upcoming meetings, contests, conferences, book signings, etc.

Upcoming Meetings

(details at www.sinc-heartoftexas.com)

- June 9 – Investigating Murder, ADP homicide detectives Rae Egan and Dave Fugitt
- July 14– Computer and Resource Workshop
- August 11 – Writing the facts of real crime and investigation, Ron Franscell
- September 8– Sara Stone, Alamo Area Search and Rescue with cadaver dog demonstration
- October 13 – Ghosts of Austin, Monica Ballard
- November 10 – TBD
- December 8 – Christmas Party – featuring excerpts from your stories and culinary samples of what your characters eat.

Contests

- May 31, 2019 – Faulkner Competition – multiple categories (fees vary, prizes vary \$1500 - \$7500) – Details at Faulkner Society – www.faulknersociety.org/william-faulkner-wisdom-competition/competition-guidelines/
- June 1, 2019 Deadline - Arizona Mystery Writers (\$15 entry fee, \$200 prize) – Details at www.arizonamysterywriters.com
- June 3, 2019 – Annual Writers Competition (\$35 entry fee, \$5,000 grand prize, 1st through 10th place awards range from \$1,000 to \$25) – Details at the Writer's Digest website. www.writersdigest.com/writers-digest-competitions/annual-writing-competition

Meet Our Members

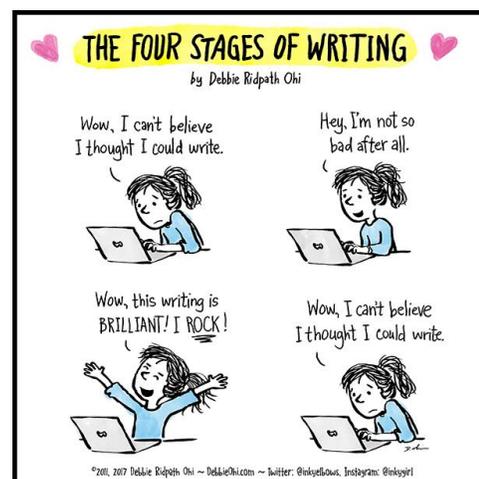
Each month we feature a member in our newsletter. You don't have to be published, or even a writer to be featured. We want to meet all our members! We provide a list of questions (writing and non-writing related) of which you choose three. We will also include a bio and information about your book, if you have one published. Download and follow the instructions - Simple! [Download instructions](#). (Editor's note: you must access the digital version of the newsletter to download the instructions. Go to www.sinc-heartoftexas.com/hotshots/posts)

SIZZLING HOT NEWS

Do you have a new book coming out? Did you win a contest? Did you score a nomination or win an award? If so, we want the world to share in your good news! Please email kelly@kellycochran.com by the end of each month to let her know your good news and we will publish it in this column in the next edition!

WWW.SINC-HEARTOFTEXAS.COM

Have you been to our chapter website lately? If not, you may want to take another look. We've added a new Reference Section with links to conventions & conferences, forensic information, and even a list of the numerous awards available to authors of mystery!



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