

FACE OFF – THE MANY FACES OF ROMANTIC SUSPENSE

Action/adventure, thriller or inspirational, suspense can take many forms.

Whichever way you like your suspense served up, this workshop will deliver the goods and explain what you need to do to acquire your spot in each specific subgenre within this flourishing market.

Kylie Brant and Roxanne Rustand - both multi-published award winning authors – join New York Times and Rita winning author Cindy Gerard along with Maria Carvainis from the Maria Carvainis Agency for this informative and enlightening workshop.
Moderator: Gennita Low

INSPIRATIONAL

—Faith element interspersed with relationship back dropped against external suspense

- How it's balanced with suspense
- Degrees of faith in books
- How it impacts the character arc
- Settings/family/sense of community
- Villains – motivation, degree of nastiness
- Series – keep 'em wanting more

ACTION ADVENTURE

—Larger than life characterization / storyline / relationships

- Guy 'speak' – make it rock
- Brotherhood – capitalize on male bonds
- Realism vs 'suspension of disbelief' – create riveting plots
- Settings – exotic appeal and 'bigger' feel
- Weaponry – do your homework!
- Balance – romance vs suspense

ROMANTIC THRILLER

—High stakes suspense / tightly plotted / torn from the headlines

- Chilling villains—motivated and compelling
- Flawed protagonists—they may not succeed
- Edgy and gritty—going to the dark side
- Setting—using it to propel the suspense
- Research—heavy lifting
- Balance—suspense vs. romance

FACE OFF: THE MANY FACES OF SUSPENSE

2009 RWA National Conference, Washington DC

SUBPLOT TRACKER FOR (NAME OF BOOK):

Chapters	Romance	Suspense	Subplot:	Subplot:	Subplot:	Subplot:	HOOK at ends of chapters
1							
2							
3							
4							
5							
6							
7							
8							
9							
10							
11							
12							
13							
14							
15							
16							

Add enough rows to have a line for every chapter. Keep this file open, and as you finish a chapter, succinctly fill in the key information here. Lines will move down and adjust to content. This form helps you avoid dropped plot threads (you'll see too many successive blanks cells in a column), and ensures that all of the subplots--especially the suspense-- are moving logically.