

Good Evening Everyone,

The actual messages will hopefully come up on the loop soon but these will do in a pinch.

First, let's talk about me so we can skip that tomorrow and save some time. Second, I want to tell you a little bit more about the class so you know what to expect.

I want to talk a little bit about why I am qualified to teach this class and how I came to teach so much before my books are out.

Here is my official bio:

Merien spent a decade traveling the world as a military intelligence analyst, learning about and observing all manner of people. She also has multiple degrees specializing in Anthropology, Sociology, English and Communications Technology. Before becoming an author and presenter, her occupations ranged from soldier to bartender to a 911 operator for police, fire and medical aid. The last few years she's been an active volunteer with several RWA chapters, to include being a board member, board liaison, and conference committee chair person. She is currently a member of the RWA national ethics committee. She has used the last few years to learn her way around the romance industry and to teach about her experiences before she entered the world of romance fiction. Merien lives in the shadow of Mount Rainier with her husband, incorrigibly lazy dog, and a little one who rules the land with an iron hand at least until bedtime.

You can learn more about Merien or contact her anytime through her website, www.meriangrey.com.

Now here is the part you are probably a bit more interested in:

When I started getting into RWA six years ago it didn't take me long to realize I had quite a bit to learn about the art and craft of creating a good book. However, I was always a watch-and-learn sort of person and never liked going into something cold. I realized a long time ago you learn more about how a place or industry works if you are on the inside so I volunteered...a lot. My first major step was to volunteer to help set up my a local conference in 2011. I had attended that conference in 2010 and knew I could do a class as good as some I attended and better than many. That may sound a bit conceited, but I knew I had something to offer, and so do you. The only thing is looking at your experience the right way to know what to offer.

As I got involved in planning the conference I read a sample workshop submission and saw how the process worked. Once there was no more mystery in it I knew I could do it. I submitted a workshop on the off chance it would get picked up even with my having no publishing experience. My background was teaching (a decade of military intelligence teaching thousands of soldiers in thousands of briefings plus other teaching opportunities along the way).

I had some interesting hobbies, like collecting Regency Weapons and had a background that allowed for me to talk about how they were used as long as I was allowed. I was also a former soldier and communications officer for a police department and then a major trauma center. I had

a degree in communications technology and knew how to do all sorts of neat stuff on the internet.

I chose weapons because it was my favorite and put the class together. It was selected and once I gave it, it was a hit. After that first class I spent about half an hour chatting with Victoria Alexander in the writer's lounge at the conference about Regency weapons and showing her my collection after she sat in on my class. I was a huge fan of hers and it was an amazing experience. I have had dozens of NYT best sellers attend my classes at various events. They don't attend because I am a good writer, they attend because I am knowledgeable and passionate about something and that comes through when I teach. When we talk tomorrow I am going to ask you all to start thinking about things you are knowledgeable about or want to be knowledgeable about or are passionate about. Those are the things that you can turn into a good class that will get you asked back.

I am now getting ready to release a debut Regency and a debut military romance later this year. It took me a long time to learn my way around writing a decent book but in the last six years I have taught close to a hundred classes to nearly twenty RWA chapters online and in person. I have taught at least one class per month for the last two years and in some months I taught up to three or even four if they were in person bookings. I am also booked through the end of this year and haven't opened bookings for next year yet. Bottom line...*my teaching pays for my conferences, editing, covers, etc.* I have funded getting all the tools I needed to create my books by teaching things I knew before I started trying to be an author and you can to.

In the class, we are going to talk about suitable topics, appropriate audience, your comfort zone, and the business of teaching. I will answer specific questions from/for each person after the main class during the webinar, after via email, or here on the loop.

The class will be about half an hour on topic selection. The next half hour will be on the various class formats chapters and conferences expect and use. The last half hour will be about setting up a plan to "market" your class so that you get booked to teach it. Then, I close with a giveaway for a Zoom (share screen software) walk through for someone's first submission. In other words, I will link on with the winner and walk them through their first submission through hitting the send button and look over anything else about their class they would like me to before they go out into the world of workshop selections.

That should be enough information to make sure there are no surprises with the who and what you will be getting tomorrow night ;)

Up next...how we are going to do this.

Warm Regards,
Merien