

Shades Of Reading Magazine: Please give the readers a brief bio on you the person and the writer.

Monique Lamont: I've been writing and reading romance since I was sixteen. I'm married to my high school best friend and sweetheart with two children. I've been a counselor for almost 9 years. I love God and family and I've been told that it usually shows in my writing.

SORMAG: Tell us about your current book?

LAMONT: My second book *DOUBLE TAKE*, is a book about learning to put yourself out there, with a possible chance of being hurt, but ultimately discovering love. It also deals with a relationship between sisters who begin to accept the difference and uniqueness of each other.

SORMAG: What is your favorite scene from your book?

LAMONT: I would have to say it's the first interview session between Detrick and LaMonica. It's those subtle intimate moments that spark and build good relationships. I have to be honest and say that love scenes are always fun to write. <smiling>

SORMAG: What would you like your readers to take away from your book?

LAMONT: Love is worth it and family is everything.

SORMAG: What type of publicity did you do for your book?

LAMONT: I do something called a book talk dinner. The only requirement is that the guest have bought and read the book. There's games, prizes and goodie bags. It gives the reader a chance to ask questions. Once it's out I'll do workshops, newspaper releases and book signings.

SORMAG: How did you stay motivated to finish your book?

LAMONT: When I hit a lull, I will go back to the beginning of the book and begin to read it. Once I get to the end of what I have written, I want to read more. So, I begin to write. I'm a reading addict in a big way; I always want to know what happens next. So, I use it to motivate my own writing.

SORMAG: What books, newsletters, or articles are helpful to you?

LAMONT: Writer's Digest has been very helpful. But, generally the newsletters and articles that I read are from the writer's groups that I'm link to. For instance, I'm a member of Chesapeake Romance Writers and every month there are always great articles from grammar to plotting a book that are helpful written by other writers.

SORMAG: Our theme for this issue is resources on the net. What resources on the net have been very helpful with your writing?

LAMONT: Things like eHarlequin.com or being apart of different author's links is invaluable. I can't say enough about that. The email system has really aided aspiring writers. To be able to post questions to the seasoned authors about the ins and outs of writing and getting published and not wait six weeks to six months to get a response is wonderful.

SORMAG: Any last advice for the aspiring writer?

LAMONT: Write what you love... love what you write. Don't let anyone make you feel ashamed about what you write. It is truly a God given talent. Also, attend as many writers' conferences as possible.

SORMAG: How can readers get in contact with you? (mail, email, website)

LAMONT: I love to hear from my readers and they can reach me three different ways; rmancn_u@yahoo.com; www.romancingyou.net ; www.wings-press.com

SORMAG: Can you give us a sneak peek at your next book?

LAMONT: Of course, I can. *HEALING HEARTS* will be out in 1 October 2004. Yasmine Sousa has found just what she needs to fulfill her life by adopting twins - but the possibility is fading fast. When she meets Jason Richardson a business executive aiming for the vice-president seat, sparks fly. A marriage of convenience with both their hearts at stake--can they play this game for keeps? Finding true love is always worth the risk.

Shades Of Reading Magazine: Please give the readers a brief bio on you the person and the writer.

Sylvia Willis Lett: Tell us about your current book? *For Christina's Sake* is a fast paced, page turning action adventure romance. The unexpected twists and turns will keep you turning the pages.

SORMAG: What is your favorite scene from your book?

LETT: When Jack tells Stephanie he's leaving to rescue his friend. It's a very emotional scene. This is the first time we see Jack in full combat gear. The essence of who and what he is hits home for the readers and for Stephanie.

SORMAG: What would you like your readers to take away from your book?

LETT: There is no such thing as the perfect man. Every man will do what is necessary if his family or friends are threatened. There is someone out there for each of us. At first glance we may not recognize him/her, but you have to dig deeper than exterior appearances. Sometimes what looks safe, may not be. Always trust your instincts.

SORMAG: What type of publicity did you do for your book?

LETT: Press Releases to local papers. I was featured in several AA papers in Dallas and the surrounding areas. I hand out bookmarks wherever I go. I keep them in my purse at all times. Family and friends helped me promote.

SORMAG: How did you stay motivated to finish your book?

LETT: My single-minded determination to succeed.

SORMAG: What books, newsletters, or articles are helpful to you?

LETT: Romance Writers of America. Reading other writers works. Even editing other writer's

works make me more aware of similar mistakes I may have made.

SORMAG: Our theme for this issue is resources on the net. What resources on the net have been very helpful with your writing?

LETT: www.bapwd.com, Romance Writers of America

SORMAG: Any last advice for the aspiring writer?

LETT: Never give up your dream. You could be the next "Big Thing".

SORMAG: How can readers get in contact with you? (mail, email, website)

LETT: smlett@comcast.net

SORMAG: Can you give us a sneak peek at your next book?

LETT: Samantha Taylor is struggling to deal with the deaths of her husband and sister. Two years prior, they were killed in an automobile accident.

While dealing with her loss, Samantha now has reason to feel guilty. She's falling in love with her very handsome and sexy brother-in-law, Alex.

Dr. Alex Carlisle shares Samantha's grief. He was married to Samantha's sister and Greg Taylor was his best friend. The night of the accident, Samantha and her sister both gave birth. One child lived and one died.

Alex has always felt a bond with his nephew, Mathew. The similarities between the two of them were uncanny. The half moon birthmark they both have foiled what would have been a seamless and undetected crime.

Samantha denies her feelings for Alex and tries to hold him at arms length. Alex calls her bluff and pulls her close for a steamy kiss. Samantha is shaken and more adamant than ever there can never be anything between them. She is not only afraid of the complications of a relationship with him, she is afraid of the way he makes her feel.

Shades Of Reading Magazine: Please give the readers a brief bio on you the person and the writer.

Terri McFaddin - I am an ordained minister, author, speaker, playwright, and songwriter with two Grammy Awards to my credit. I spent ten years as a Motown songwriter, wrote for many Christian artists, and co-wrote the movie theme songs for Big and Men In Black. I earned my Masters degree in Theology from Fuller Theological Seminary. I have authored three books, including *God Made Me Beauty-full* and *Only a Woman*.

SORMAG: Tell us about your current book?

MCFADDIN: It celebrates the beauty and uniqueness of women of African heritage. Many Black women do not fully understand their true worth and God-given potential. Exploring vital biblical truths, *Sapphires and Other Precious Jewels* empowers Black women to recognize and fully embrace the qualities that make us beautiful, valuable, and jewels of great price.

The book uses Exodus 28:17, where there were twelve jewels found on the Breastplate of Aaron the High Priest. Each jewel represented one of the twelve tribes of Israel and was ordained by God to be uniquely beautiful. Black women are like precious jewels because they are all different, yet uniquely beautiful and valuable.

SORMAG: What would you like your readers to take away from your book?

MCFADDIN: I would like them to discover the following:

1. Realize that they are perfect for God's purpose.
2. Build self-confidence and self-worth.
3. Learn about the heritage that shaped our spiritual and cultural identity.
4. Offer emotional healing for women who have been wounded by racism and other types of rejection.
5. Promote unity among women of African ancestry.
6. Encourage spiritual growth through the knowledge of God's Word.
7. Show women how to pass on Godly self-esteem to their children

SORMAG: Why did you choose to write in the Christian genre?

MCFADDIN: I am a Christian and I love to share my faith, however this book reaches all women

regardless of religious convictions.

SORMAG: What type of publicity did you do for your book?

MCFADDIN: Book signings, radio and television interviews, newspapers, magazines, telephone/word-of-mouth.

SORMAG: How did you stay motivated to finish your book?

MCFADDIN: I am a highly motivated person because I have a passion for writing. Because I love writing, it isn't hard for me to finish a book.

SORMAG: What books, newsletters, or articles are helpful to you?

MCFADDIN: The Bible. It's always fresh and insightful.

SORMAG: Our theme for this issue is resources on the net. What resources on the net have been very helpful with your writing?

MCFADDIN: Plain old AOL Search. It can give you all the information that you would ever need.

SORMAG: Any last advice for the aspiring writer?

MCFADDIN: Some people talk about writing a book or an article but they never do it, or they never complete it. Remember that a true writer loves to write and is always writing, therefore they will finish their projects. Your gift will eventually make room for you in the market place.

SORMAG: How can readers get in contact with you? (mail, email, website)

MCFADDIN: www.terrimcfaddin.org. Please be sure to visit the (WDG) Women's Discipleship Group page.

SORMAG: Can you give us a sneak peek at your next book?

MCFADDIN: It will be a novel about a family that falls apart after a divorce. The 3 children grow up to be dysfunctional adults that need to deal with the pain of their childhood.

Shades Of Reading Magazine: Please give the readers a brief bio on you the person and the writer.

Cherlyn Michaels: I'm originally from St. Louis, Missouri and currently reside in Cleveland, Ohio. I've studied writing through various books, the Voices of Our Nations Arts Workshop with Terry McMillan, and I've attended the UCLA Extension 4-day Writer's Workshop for the past two years.

SORMAG: Tell us about your current book?

MICHAELS: Counting Raindrops through a Stained Glass Window is about Vanella Morris, a young woman with a fear of commitment and a man, Alton Goode, who is ready to get married and proposes. Vanella answers his proposal with a request to live together, which he refuses. Vanella is forced to explore her fears and re-evaluate her decision about marriage, if its not too late.

SORMAG: What is your favorite scene from your book?

MICHAELS: There's a couple of girlfriend scenes where they are out and discussing the issues of marriage. The ladies discuss the roles of men and women in marriage. I get a lot of comments on these scenes.

SORMAG: What would you like your readers to take away from your book?

MICHAELS: First, I would like for them to be entertained. I also would like for them to get the message of considering and exploring what it takes to make a marriage work and real reasons for entering into a marriage.

SORMAG: What type of publicity did you do for your book?

MICHAELS: Archland Books did a lot of grass root promoting for Counting Raindrops. We distributed promotional materials at different reader and bookseller events and on the streets, internet promotions, sent milestone press releases, and

advertising in nationally distributed magazines.

SORMAG: How did you stay motivated to finish your book?

MICHAELS: I probably wrote this first one off of pure adrenaline. Watching the characters develop and grow was motivation enough for me.

SORMAG: What books, newsletters, or articles are helpful to you?

MICHAELS: I read a lot of articles in writing magazines such as Writer's Digest and The Writer. I also subscribe to literary magazines such as Black Issues Book Review and Booking Matters.

SORMAG: Our theme for this issue is resources on the net. What resources on the net have been very helpful with your writing?

MICHAELS: Resources I've used that have been helpful are Writer's Digest, Writer's Market, Shaws Guides, Suite101, and many more.

SORMAG: Any last advice for the aspiring writer?

MICHAELS: I would say to continue to study and develop your craft. This is advice from other writers that has been drilled into my head and I'm passing it along.

SORMAG: How can readers get in contact with you? (mail, email, website)

MICHAELS: Readers can visit my website at www.cherlymmichaels.com.

They can also send me an email at mail@cherlynmichaels.com or mail to the care of Archland Books, 16781 Chagrin Blvd., #303, Shaker Heights, OH 44120.

SORMAG: Can you give us a sneak peek at your next book?

MICHAELS: It's called My Prerogative and is the story of another single woman with against the grain relationship issues. The main character, Zandra, has a very different and interesting perspective.

Shades Of Reading Magazine: Please give the readers a brief bio on you the person and the writer.

Rebecca Osaigbovo: I was raised in a missionary family with Cedine Bible Missions in Spring City, Tennessee. I studied nursing at North Park University in Chicago. I met and married Uwaifo, who had come from Nigeria to study in Chicago. We have three children of our own and have helped raised a nephew and niece.

My love for reading books took me to selling books. While operating Quality Inspirational Books in the early 80's, I wrote a newsletter to recommend books to our customers. I also wrote for the church newsletter. I wrote booklets, which I gave away. I self-published my first full-length book, *Chosen Vessels, Women of Color, Keys to Change* in 1992. It sold over 62,000 copies over the next ten years. The second book, *Movin' On Up: A Woman's Guide Beyond Religion to Spirit Living* was published in 1997.

SORMAG: Tell us about your current book?

OSAIGBOVO: *It's Not About You-It's About God* is a book that continues to communicate the passion of my heart-helping African American women to understand God and His purposes for us so that we can be mighty change agents in our families and communities. So far, we're getting a lot of good feedback.

SORMAG: What would you like your readers to take away from your book?

OSAIGBOVO: After reading this book, I pray that readers will come away with a renewed sense that God is really good! (It's not just a saying.) They will look upon their past disappointments in life in a new light and as a result have hope for a bright future as they seek to learn God's ways and to let God be God.

SORMAG: Why did you choose to write in the Christian genre?

OSAIGBOVO: Did I have a choice? The first chapter in the book tells of my near-death experience when I was 17 years old and that I'm alive today because of God. My life is not my own. Christ is my life.

SORMAG: What type of publicity did you do for your book?

OSAIGBOVO: Since the book just came out in January, we're still in the middle of our publicity campaign. I talk about the book when I speak. We've done postcard mailings. As of this writing I have done a local television interview and a national radio interview. I have several more radio and at least one more television interview scheduled over the next few months. We have had the book reviewed in online and print publications. We're having an official book launching the second week in March.

SORMAG: How did you stay motivated to finish your book?

OSAIGBOVO: I'm on a mission. Knowing it wasn't about me kept me going.

SORMAG: What books, newsletters, or articles are helpful to you?

OSAIGBOVO: Books, articles and newsletters that help me understand the One for whom I communicate and the audience to whom I communicate. Books, newsletters and articles that help me operate a ministry and a business, write and speak.

SORMAG: Our theme for this issue is resources on the net. What resources on the net have been very helpful with your writing?

OSAIGBOVO: I have used the internet for research. I've looked up Scripture verses on the internet. I've used an internet dictionary. I've been a member of online groups that deal with publishing, writing, and speaking.

SORMAG: Any last advice for the aspiring writer?

OSAIGBOVO: Just do it. Never stop taking classes, going to conferences and reading books to improve your craft. But you don't have to know it all to begin. Start where you are; let others help you in places you need help.

SORMAG: How can readers get in contact with you? (mail, email, website)

OSAIGBOVO: Chosen Vessels Ministries PO Box 23872 Detroit, MI 48223 local calls 313-531-7534; toll free- 1-888-531-CVMI (2864) RebeccaO@cvmi.org; www.cvmi.org and www.RebeccaOsaigbovo.com

Shades Of Reading: Please give the readers a brief bio on you (the person) and the writer:

Jennifer Rankins: Married 31 years; two children and four grandchildren, Jennifer and her husband are Certified Marriage Counselors, and Directors of Broken Wings Ministry – A Marriage Counseling Ministry. Together they minister God’s word through Marriage Enrichment seminars, workshops, and special events. Their vision is to provide marriages with Biblical resources to bring hurting couples (those that have been abused sexually, physically, mentally, and spiritually) back into the healing realm of God. Jennifer is a published author of three novels: *Is it Worth the Wait (There is no limit to God's grace)*; *When Leslie Left (When love goes brutally wrong)*; and, her first children's book - *You Did it, Grandma, You Did it! (Overcoming the fears of Juvenile Diabetes)*. A native Clevelander, she and her husband now resides in East Liverpool, Ohio where she is currently working on her fourth novel.

SORMAG: Tell us about your current book?

RANKINS: Author, Jennifer Rankins explores the life of Leslie Peyton as she makes her way out of a five-year marriage of domestic violence. This compelling fiction novel tells how Leslie overcame a life of sexual abuse as a child, and spousal abuse as an adult. She learns through a series of events that ‘love does not hurt,’ and ultimately, that healing and recovery comes from God – and not from a program or a shelter.

SORMAG: What is your favorite scene from your book?

RANKINS: My favorite scene is towards the end of the book, when Leslie was brave enough to face herself and her fears as she writes her now ex-husband, Clinton Peyton, a long letter letting him know that even though he meant to break her spirit, how God had transformed her shattered life as she continue to be honest about the battles she fights within herself while on the path Victory.

SORMAG: What would you like your readers to take away from your book?

RANKINS: That love does not hurt, and that the Lord sees our hearts and minds. He knows our struggles and to be honest and reveal the truth, to ourselves first, that Jesus is the only answer to man's bent nature. Ultimately, we have to get rid of the smiling façade and get down to the condition of our hearts to allow God to totally heal us.

SORMAG: What type of publicity did you do for your book?

RANKINS: Word of mouth is always good, as well as having a friendly website - not too complicated to navigate around and make your visitors feel welcome as they browse your site. I also ordered a marketing kit from the publishers, I ordered additional postcards with my book cover and website URL listed from an online printing company (Vista Print) and mailed them out to everyone I know. I even stuffed one inside of each envelope of every bill I paid each month (i.e. light company, gas company, phone company, cable, etc...)

SORMAG: How did you stay motivated to finish your book?

RANKINS: I love to write. I can not imagine not writing. I actually began writing in high school. Writing is a part of who I am as a

person. It is therapy for me, like gardening, jogging, or oil painting is to others. I enjoy the entire process of writing. It helps me to write. Gives me something to look forward to as I take a quantum leap into my story and see what my characters are seeing.

SORMAG: What books, newsletters, or articles are helpful to you?

RANKINS: My most favorite book (second to the Bible) is called: *How to Write a Damn Good Novel II* - by James N. Frey. He explains the rules of writing in laymen terms. He offers several techniques to build suspense, create fresher, more interesting characters, and achieve greater reader sympathy, empathy, and identification. Of course, I gather newspaper articles and clippings on the subject I'm writing about. Then, I refer back to them whenever I get to a point in the book when I get stuck.

SORMAG: Our theme for this issue is resources on the net. What resources on the net have been very helpful with your writing?

RANKINS: I am a member of an online Yahoo Christian African American writing group. I learn a lot from other writers (do's and don'ts); I am especially fond of the 4-Real Creative Writing website: (<http://www.4real-creative-writing.com/>) This site is chock full of writing nuggets.

SORMAG: Any last advice for the aspiring writer?

RANKINS: Write about what you need to read. Write from your heart and about the things you know. Write the truth (even if fiction). Sometimes it hurts a great deal to peel away the layers of self-deception and see ourselves in the mirror, but it draws us closer to Jesus. It also ministers to others who are struggling with the same issues. And, even if you feel a tension between communicating the message of the cross, write it anyway. No matter how careful we are in what we write and how we write it, someone is always going to be offended. We can't write for those few, we have to tackle today's issues head on.

SORMAG: How can readers get in contact with you? (mail, email, website)

RANKINS: All snail mail can be sent to P.O. Box 2918, East Liverpool, OH 43920; email me at: brokenwingsministry@yahoo.com ; and my URL is: <http://jenniferrankins.tripod.com>

SORMAG: Can you give us a sneak peek at your next book?

RANKINS: Yes, my next book titled '*Sacred Vows*' (subtitled: Till Death Do we Part) About a married couple that have everything going for them. Established careers, newly built home, four cars, children in private schools, lavish vacations - and then, the husband has to confess to his wife that he has AIDS. The wife, while torn with this big blow to the family, has to make a decision - either divorce her husband leaving him nothing, or stay and take care of him until research either finds a cure, or until he finally face death.

Shades Of Reading Magazine: Please give the readers a brief bio on you the person and the writer.

Monique Robinson: I am a native of Los Angeles, California and the pastor of women's discipleship at Faithful Central Bible Church in Inglewood, California, where I was ordained in 2001. I earned a Master of Arts degree in Biblical Counseling from Dallas Theological Seminary. I'm married to Andre Robinson and we have two beautiful daughters, Sheena and Andrea. *Longing For Daddy: Healing from the Pain of an Absent or Emotionally Distant Father*, released January 20, 2004, is my first published book.

SORMAG: Tell us about your current book?

ROBINSON: *Longing For Daddy* enlightens the reader on the symptoms resulting from an absent father—whether he was physically absent, or in the home but absent emotionally. The book identifies common fatherless characteristics; reshapes our view of God into a more wholesome, parental view; and enables the reader to see that God has been a Father all along, longing to fulfill every need.

SORMAG: What would you like your readers to take away from your book?

ROBINSON: I'd like the reader to discover that fatherlessness is a cancerous root that is ripe for the healing hand of the Father. We have an omnipresent Father, not bound by time, which can heal the betrayed and neglected child inside. Finally, my prayer is that this book will encourage a healthy relationship with God, self, and others—which may include their earthly father.

SORMAG: Why did you choose to write in the Christian genre?

ROBINSON: Christianity has been entrenched in my life since age 11 and my relationship with Jesus Christ was an intricate part of my healing. He pointed me to the heavenly Father.

SORMAG: What type of publicity did you do for

your book?

ROBINSON: All publicity—radio interviews, articles, book signings—was filtered through my publicist, Pam Perry at Ministry Marketing Solutions. (www.ministrymarketingsolutions.com)

SORMAG: How did you stay motivated to finish your book?

ROBINSON: Books in the Christian market are sparse on the topic of absent fathers and it was heavy on my heart to share my story. I was determined to use my life experiences and testimony as a tool for helping and healing others.

SORMAG: What books, newsletters, or articles are helpful to you?

ROBINSON: The Bible, Spirit Led Woman, Health Magazine, Marriage Partnership, L.A. Focus, My Utmost for His Highest Journal

SORMAG: Our theme for this issue is resources on the net. What resources on the net have been very helpful with your writing?

ROBINSON: Blueletterbible.com, Findarticles.com, NYTimes.com/articles, Talkcity.com, Crosswalk.com

SORMAG: Any last advice for the aspiring writer?

ROBINSON: Set your goals high and press to achieve them. View every challenge in the writing process as stepping stones, not stumbling blocks. They will strengthen you spiritually, emotionally, and psychologically. Don't give up!

SORMAG: How can readers get in contact with you? (mail, email, website)

ROBINSON: www.moniquerobinson.com or longingfordaddy@sbcglobal.net

SORMAG: Can you give us a sneak peek at your next book?

ROBINSON: I'm working on a proposal for *Longing For Daddy, Teen Edition* because so many of our children are growing up without their earthly fathers in the home. I don't want them to wait until they're an adult to begin the healing process.

Shades Of Reading Magazine: Please give the readers a brief bio on you the person and the writer.

Marlo Schalesky: Besides being a writer, I'm also the co-owner of Skyline Engineering, Inc., a mechanical engineering firm. I currently have four books in print, three novels and one nonfiction book on infertility. Over 450 of my articles have appeared in various national magazines. Though my degree is in Chemistry, I've set aside my test tubes and lab goggles and am currently working toward a Masters degree in Theology at Fuller Theological Seminary. My husband, Bryan, and I live in Salinas, California with our daughters, Bethany (4) and Joelle (10 months). I love to watch good movies, read good books, ride horses, and eat Coldstone ice cream.

SORMAG: Tell us about your current book?

SCHALESKY: *Only the Wind Remembers* was inspired by the remarkable journey of Ishi, the last Yahi, who walked out of the woods in Oroville, California on August 29, 1911. He came to tell an ancient tale of his people. He came to change one woman's life forever. He was the last of his tribe, the only Stone Age Indian left in North America. Alone. Lonely. With no one who knew his true name. Allison was abandoned as a young child, deprived of a place to call home. Loneliness brought them together. Prejudice drove them apart. Only the Wind Remembers is their story, a story of finding hope in an alien world, of the beauty of unlikely friendships, and the wonder of discovering the only love that heals.

SORMAG: What is your favorite scene from your book?

SCHALESKY: I love all the scenes from Ishi's POV. His heart, his voice, his character flowed so beautifully that I felt that I was discovering an old friend as I wrote. But in particular, I love the scene where he's ill and he envisions the Daha river calling him south, calling him to join his people. But he knows he has a story to tell, a tale that must be told to the one person who can hear it – to Allison who has learned his language, to whom he's opened his heart.

SORMAG: What would you like your readers to take away from your book?

SCHALESKY: I hope readers will be filled with wonder at the subtle and unexpected ways that God brings hope and healing into our lives. I hope my book will challenge the prejudices that are often held about Native Americans. And I hope readers will feel that they've met one of the most fascinating people this world has known.

SORMAG: What type of publicity did you do for your book?

SCHALESKY: I've had radio interviews, newspaper articles, various reviews and interviews on the 'net, and booksignings. Lately, I've been contacting various Native American groups and Native American ministries. I also put out a quarterly newsletter with a few other writers. Our current newsletter went out to 4,000 people. (Readers can sign up to receive our newsletter on my website www.marloschalesky.com).

SORMAG: How did you stay motivated to finish your book?

SCHALESKY: Deadline! J And the need to be faithful to the vision of this book. At the beginning, passion for the story was enough. But as I got into the "thick of things" in the writing, I found faithfulness to be a stronger motivator.

SORMAG: What books, newsletters, or articles are helpful to you?

SCHALESKY: On the writing side, I like *Self-Editing for Fiction Writers*. For *Only the Wind Remembers*, my two favorite books were

Ishi in Two Worlds by Theodora Kroeber and *Ishi the Last Yahi: A Documentary History* edited by Robert Heizer and Theodora Kroeber.

SORMAG: Our theme for this issue is resources on the net. What resources on the net have been very helpful with your writing?

SCHALESKY: For *Only the Wind Remembers*, I used: <http://hearstmuseum.berkeley.edu/>

Phoebe A. Hearst Museum of Anthropology, Home Page. This is the museum where Ishi lived during the years he spent among the "saldu" (white man) both in *Only the Wind Remembers* and in real life. The museum has since moved from San Francisco to Berkeley. The website gives information about Ishi as well as the various Native American exhibits currently on display.

<http://www.tinfoil.com/default.htm>

This site gives information and background on the Edison wax cylinders that the anthropologists used to record Ishi's songs and stories.

<http://www.mtfca.com/books/11cat.htm>

This site shows the 1911 Ford Motor Company catalog, showing the car that Thomas Morgan drove in *Only the Wind Remembers*.

SORMAG: Any last advice for the aspiring writer?

SCHALESKY: Persevere. Hone your craft. Get some people around you whose opinions you trust and listen to their advice to improve your writing. Go to writer's conferences. Remember that writing is also a business, it's also work. Always look to be growing in your writing ability. And, perhaps most importantly, defy discouragement!

SORMAG: How can readers get in contact with you? (mail, email, website)

SCHALESKY: Through my website at www.marloschalesky.com

SORMAG: Through email at bryan2@ix.netcom.com

SCHALESKY: Through regular mail at 8100 Wild Horse Rd., Salinas, CA 93907

SORMAG: Can you give us a sneak peek at your next book?

SCHALESKY: The novel I'm working on now (tentatively titled *Veil of Fire*) is set in 1894, Hinckley, Minnesota and explores a real historical mystery. On September 1, 1894, one of the worst fires in history ravaged east central Minnesota. It destroyed six towns, including Hinckley. Descending on the towns like a red demon, the fire consumed 400 square miles, killing 418 people in four hours. The maelstrom of flames caught the townspeople unaware. Five hundred were saved on the train to Duluth, with a bridge disintegrating into the fire only minutes after the train passed. Another hundred were saved in the gravel pit, where they desperately poured water on each other to keep their clothes from catching fire in the intense heat. A few others were saved in potato patches, water barrels, and by sheer grace. After the fire, the townspeople rebuilt their town, but in the midst of rebuilding, a rumor began of a hermit in the hills - a person severely burned, disfigured beyond recognition. The identity of this person was never determined, and it remains to this day a mystery, a myth, a shadowed figure whispered about in tales passed from grandparents to grandchildren. Who was this monster in the hills?

Shades Of Reading Magazine: Please give the readers a brief bio on you the person and the writer.

Sophronia Scott: I've been a journalist for the past 15 years and part of that was spent as the Style Watch editor for People Magazine. I started writing my book while at People. I was having great fun, but I've always wanted to work from home so last year I left the business to start my own life coaching company and to focus on writing more fiction.

SORMAG: Tell us about your current book?

SCOTT: "*All I Need to Get By*" is the story of a woman, Crita, whose life and love is ruined when her brother, whom she adores, becomes a drug addict. A family crisis forces her to go home to Ohio where she must face her brother and the man she once loved and she realizes that this is the chance for her to get her life back.

SORMAG: What is your favorite scene from your book?

SCOTT: I think it's the scene where Crita first sees her brother again for the first time in years. Her heart is torn because she wants to see the person she once loved so much, but the person who comes walking up the driveway, all scruffy, unkempt and overweight, looks like a stranger and he frightens her.

SORMAG: What would you like your readers to take away from your book?

SCOTT: An new understanding of family and forgiveness. When families fall apart we tend to think it happened because the family didn't love enough. I wanted to show that it can also happen when a family loves too much.

SORMAG: What type of publicity did you do for your book?

SCOTT: Aside from the publicity St. Martin's is doing, I'm contacting book clubs across the country and letting them know that if they read my book, I will join their discussion. I also have an author website, <http://www.sophronia.com>.

SORMAG: How did you stay motivated to finish your book?

SCOTT: I've always believed in this story of a brother and a sister. You don't hear much about brothers and sisters, stories are usually about sisters or brothers. I felt Crita and Linc's tale was worth telling and I was devoted to it.

SORMAG: What books, newsletters, or articles are helpful to you?

SCOTT: I started off reading Lou Willett Stanek's book, "*So You Want to Write a Novel?*" and throughout my writing the Writer's Digest books on novel writing were always helpful and inspirational. I also love reading Edwidge Dandicat, Toni Morrison, Anita Shreve and Susan Dodd.

SORMAG: Our theme for this issue is resources on the net. What resources on the net have been very helpful with your writing?

SCOTT: Mosaicbooks.com has been really helpful in locating book clubs. I also did extensive research on drug addiction on the web.

SORMAG: Any last advice for the aspiring writer?

SCOTT: Understand your talent and your craft. That's what will help you know which criticism is useful and which you can put aside. I think too many writers get needlessly upset by criticism.

SORMAG: How can readers get in contact with you? (mail, email, website)

SCOTT: My website is <http://www.sophronia.com> and my email address is CoachSoph@CreativeCoachingPlans.com

SORMAG: Can you give us a sneak peek at your next book?

SCOTT: I think writing about families will always be my thing. My next book is about two sisters. You'll know upfront that one sister kills the other, but you don't know who kills who or the circumstances surrounding the death until the end. It's tentatively titled "*A Family of Widows*".

Shades Of Reading Magazine: Please give the readers a brief bio on you the person and the writer.

Rosalind Stromer: I didn't choose my genre as much as it chose me. When God reawakened my desire to write, He also gave me to words the manuscript.

SORMAG: Tell us about your current book?

STROMER: *HEALING THE BREACH* speaks to the casual manner in which we discard the people in our lives.

SORMAG: What is your favorite scene from your book?

STROMER: Jana and Grace re-connecting in a nightclub scene.

SORMAG: What would you like your readers to take away from your book?

STROMER: That we are a product of our backgrounds and experiences, and a little self-introspection never hurt anyone.

SORMAG: What type of publicity did you do for your book?

STROMER: Booksignings, African-American bookclubs, radio and newspaper giveaways, and events.

SORMAG: How did you stay motivated to finish your book?

STROMER: It wasn't difficult at all. I knew I had to something to say to the masses.

SORMAG: What books, newsletters, or articles are helpful to you?

STROMER: *The Self-Publishing Manual, Jump Start Your Book Sales.*

SORMAG: Our theme for this issue is resources on the net. What resources on the net have been

very helpful with your writing?

STROMER: My favorite online bookclubs have been extremely instrumental. RAW SISTAZ.com, A Nu Twista Flavah.com, The Good Girl Bookclub, Sophisticated Souls of Learning, APOOO, Marguerite Press Promo, and Denise Turney.

There have been countless others.

SORMAG: Any last advice for the aspiring writer?

STROMER: Believe in what you write, and write the kind of novels that you can be proud of.

SORMAG: How can readers get in contact with you? (mail, email, website)

STROMER: <http://www.heavenlybound.org>, email:rosalind@heavenlybound.org, I also have a Christian Focus Group that centers on learning how to walk out the Word of God.

SORMAG: Can you give us a sneak peek at your next book?

STROMER: *IN THE WRONG HANDS* is about a series of mishaps that occur when a respected church member's "prayer" journal ends up in the wrong hands, exposing the congregation's sins.

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