

Lady Isis: We're taking questions



Bray Dalton: ????? Can you give us a little information about yourself? Shelby mentioned publishing and editing earlier...



Lady Isis: Shelby and Treva Bray asked if you would tell us a little something about yourselves



Shelby: Publishing



Treva: I am one of the partners of Loose Id and the Editor in Chief there. We've been in the biz of erotic romance for 7 years now. Publishing it, that is.



Shelby: both of us



Bray Dalton: ????? 7 years? publishing... You have seen lots of changes in your industry, I bet.



Shelby: Changeling Press and Loose are about as opposite as two Erotica small presses can be -- at Changeling we do short stories and Novellas, primarily Sci-Fi, Dark and Urban Fantasy, and Paranormal



Lady Isis: Oh our kind of world Shelby



Bray Dalton: ???? how many manuscripts do you get a year?



Shelby: and rather than rule by committee there's two of us -- my husband is my business partner



Shelby: We publish 4 books a week



Bray Dalton: 4 a week? wow



StephanieW: That's great your husband being your business partner. Does he help in selecting manuscripts?



Shelby: as for submissions, I'd guess out acceptance rate is maybe 10 to 20%



Shelby: but most of our submissions aren't in that math because we publish 3 to 12 novellas a year from many of our authors

Marius: ???what is the major reason that people are not accepted

Treva: The biggest is that it doesn't fit the guidelines. There's not a thing we can do about that

Shelby: People Do Not Read Submission Guidelines



Killius: can you give us examples of guidelines???



Bray Dalton: submission guidelines are clear on your website, right?



Treva: On our site we have submissions guidelines. Right



Shelby: last month we got a beautifully illustrated -- hand drawings -- spiral bound short story in the mail. I didn't even read it cause if I HAD liked it what am I going to do, retype it?



Bray Dalton: But it was pretty?



Treva: You may have the best story in the world but if our audience won't buy it, it does none of any good to consider it



StephanieW: Makes sense



Bray Dalton: ???What is the process once something is submitted?



Shelby: if you want to write for a house, learn the house



Treva: We both have slightly different procedures, I think



Shelby: don't try for the blind date method



Winn: Smart



Treva: The website is free and there for you to look it. So--it's like on-line dating?



Shelby: well, with any house, someone has to read it -- a submissions editor -- and determine first if it's even at the right place kinda, I mean we have a whole list of simple stuff to do



Treva: Our submissions editor assigns it in rotation to an editor



Shelby: write for a genre we publish



Lady Isis: That let's Bray out he has trouble following directions



Bray Dalton: HAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHA



Winn: LOL



Killius: HAHAHA



Tarquin: \*Chuckles\*



Shelby: send us something we could publish if we like it



Treva: submit a partial



Shelby: we don't do 100,000 word sagas



Treva: oh, of a ms. that's actually done



Bray Dalton: how does the process take??????????



Lady Isis: ??? Treva you take partials



Shelby: you can send us one but we're not gonna read it.



Shelby: besides Sheri had a melt down over people leaving her with everything but the ending

Killius: I did not know that....thank you...this is very helpful.



Shelby: I want to know if you can write a story





StephanieW: ??? for Treva



Treva: I don't have an average but try not to go over 500 words - I'll read your story anyhow



Lady Isis: So about 1-2 pages



Treva: Unless you tell me everyone dies at the end



Treva: yes



StephanieW: How about if you are doing a re-submission, do you need the full manuscript and synop?



Shelby: I agree with Treva -- that's about all I need from the synopsis. Need the basics



Treva: If we ask you to resubmit, we'll probably want the full ms. and maybe a synopsis if it's changed dramatically



StephanieW: Ahh, cool



Treva: The editor will tell you, most likely or you can ask the editor



Killius: ???? for Shelby or Treva....



Shelby: We do ask for a synopsis. We just don't judge your writing by how well you can condense your book into 2 pages.



Bray Dalton: \*shew\*



Killius: I read a lot where it is recommended you have an agent before one will even consider your ms...is this true???



Treva: We may make some prejudgments though if the story has typos



Bray Dalton: good question

Shelby: It was a decade ago

Treva: E-publishing is just starting to have agents. I'm not sure they're really needed as yet.

Shelby: No one uses agents for e-pub, really

Killius: THANK YOU

Treva: If you do some basic research, you shouldn't need one.

Marius: great info!

Treva: But do the research

Treva: I don't want you to wander off to a bad publisher

Bray Dalton: ????? It seems like your industry is changing so much. How are you handling the change? The culture of e-reading is so strong now???

Shelby: there's no advance, so the agent doesn't get paid a third of your advance, so they won't send you to e-publishers.

Treva: And then have everyone say but everyone else knew about the problem X was having.

StephanieW: ??? for both Treva and Shelby.

Treva: We sometimes give advances as do other publishers

Killius: that is just it...how in the world do you tell a bad from a good??? If you are a first time writer???

LaVerne: Decadent Publishing is one of the few that requires an agent or a recommend from one of their authors



Shelby: Well, we were in on the ground floor with e-pub, both of us. That's how we met so it's been on the job training

Treva: Check with Piers Anthony's site and Absolute Write

Killius: thank you LaVerne....interesting



Treva: for starters ask a bunch of authors (not just one) about a publisher



Shelby: ask authors who write for a company if they're happy there.



Treva: Amber Quill usually only takes authors they ask for



Killius: thank you Shelby :-)



Shelby: If you see the same names coming up 3 and 4 and more times a year -- chances are they're happy



StephanieW: That's the question Treva, about Amber.



Shelby: Do we know Amber?



Treva: They have a few open calls but usually you get in if they ask you



Treva: Yes we do



StephanieW: How will they find you if it's invitation only?



Shelby: I don't remember them...



Treva: The DH writes for them



Shelby: Oh, OK



Tarquin: That is very fast. \*Grins\*

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Shelby: yes, same here, for both Changeling and Razor. We do our best to let you know we received your submission right away



Treva: It may take longer to get it read, but it shouldn't take months and months



StephanieW: That means have your stuff together, cause you never know



Shelby: that doesn't mean we read it yet



Treva: Well, we were writers before publishers



Shelby: right, we want you to know we got the email



Bray Dalton: Then how long is the next step before you tell us you loved it and want it?? \*grins\*



Treva: it's maddening to wonder if anyone actually got the darn ms.



Bray Dalton: yes



Shelby: exactly



Treva: The next step would be we ask for a full and that may take -- I'm guessing -- 1-2 months.



Killius: \*faints\*



Marius: ???Is becoming a publisher typical career transition? like actor into director?



Treva: Sometimes we fall down because we are on vacation or it's a book that needs a lot of discussion



Bray Dalton: Do you send out rejection letters????



Mary Luce: Lots of hope!!!



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StephanieW: That's not too bad. Some take six -eight months now

Shelby: in our case we'll tell you we received it, then within 2 to 6 weeks you'll get an acceptance, or a revise resub, or a polite "Thank you, but this is not right for us" -- or a forward to the local police department



Treva: Yes we send out ASSESSMENT letter



Killius: Thank you Shelby...that was helpful



Treva: we don't reject -- we explain why it's not suitable for us right now



Mary Luce: hahaha



Bray Dalton: hahahahahahahahahahaha



LaVerne: hahahahaha



Winn: lol



Shelby: (It's been a bad last few weeks at Razor)



Killius: hahahaha



Teri: lol



StephanieW: lol



Mary Luce: that was good



Marius: ??Does that happen often????????? the police???





Treva: sure, you laugh - they all do that. And she's either virginal and wants sex or just wants sex



Les: duh Bray - Laughs

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Marius: I am all for that one!

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Treva: They don't know that their Kindle can take our formats and they don't have to buy from Amazon

Rhage: really?

Treva: Now ask Shelby how. I don't know either

Shelby: Many of the newer readers are proprietary -- it's harder to show with them off their mfgs site which means we're getting requests to put our books more places

Treva: I'm a technophobe - I don't use a reader

Marius: \*Blinks\* thanks for the Kindle info, had no idea

Treva: it's prc format, right?

Rhage: hahaha...don't say that!!

StephanieW: Lost me with tech talk. LOL!



Shelby: Kindles really aren't all that proprietary, but people don't always know how they work



LaVerne: ???Treva and Shelby are your books on Apple devices



Killius: good ? LaVerne



Shelby: you get a you@kindel address and you mail anything you want on your kindle to that address



Shelby: apples read... something we make



Rhage: great...I am looking at getting an apple



Treva: Thanks



Shelby: E-Pub maybe?



Treva: you're supposed to know more about this than me



Bray Dalton: college campus are filling with e-readers, the books are so much cheaper. Do you think that will affect their future buying habits??? Then are the New York houses (which I have no idea about) gearing up to compete with you guys??????



Shelby: it's like anything else -- what my generation had to learn how to use, your kids will think has always been "normal"



LaVerne: yes



Treva: Once the big guys figure out what to do, they'll gear up but print is still a huge percentage of their market



Rhage: yes, but how?



Shelby: NY has a problem. Pricing



Bray Dalton: right - it would have too



Shelby: they're structured around a \$25 hard back release price. People don't really care much for \$25 e-books.



Marius: Give me a paper text any day



LaVerne: And they also don't understand how to market the e-work



Treva: If you protect print at the expense of e-books, e-books lose. LI has always put e-books first, print second



Shelby: we do very little print - the numbers just don't justify it



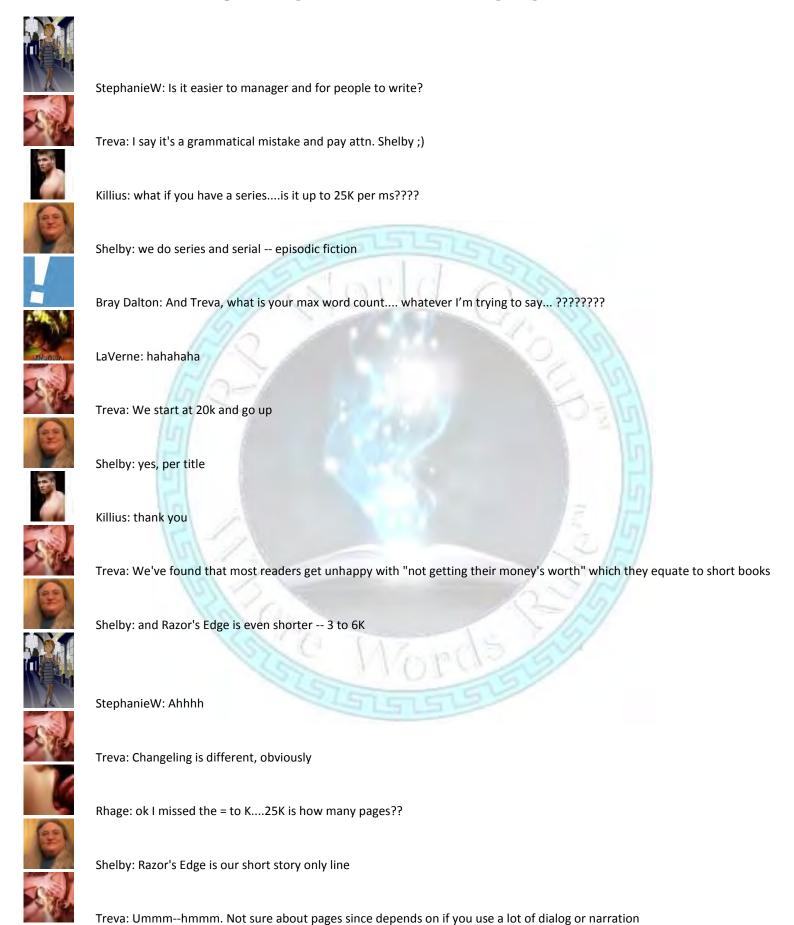
Treva: because we make most of our money with e-books



Killius: I am an actual give me a book any day type...I love my library!!!!! But that is just me!



Rhage: so 25k equals approx. how many pages???





Bray Dalton: Guidelines are on your website...

StephanieW: If it's a great story it can be 8K to 80K, as long as I love it

Shelby: We don't care how many pages is it. Use the word count feature in WORD

Marius: Rhage about 80 pages



Treva: Dialogue would make it more pages



Marius: ditto on the dialog



Treva: 20k is about 100 pages, I think. (I tend to write about 23K a story -- Shelby used to write much, much longer. But here we are. Go figure.)



LaVerne: That's true about more dialogue creating more pages



Shelby: page count goes back to old print publishing where books had to be formatted precisely to fit in paper folds



Rhage: so the whole book would equal reading about 80 pages???



Beth: what is the website?



Duncan: rpgue?



Shelby: change your type font, your page count changes.



Duncan: whoops sorry



Micah: Yes, ditto Beth's question.



Treva: which website? ours?



Shelby: Changeling is www. changeling press. com



Beth: yes plz



Treva: www.loose-id.com



Micah: Thank you.





Shelby: razor's Edge is www. razors edge press. com



Shelby: yes - read our books. Find something you like figure out why it works for you



Treva: For new new writers, I'd look at books in the genre you want to write



Lady Isis: The links are on RPW



Treva: I was being less crass, Shelby



Winn: Thanks Lady I.



Treva: Get a critique partner, too, if you can



Shelby: I'm not saying become our best customer. But when I wanted to write for HQ, I read HQ. Then I discovered I hated what they published. end of mission.



Treva: esp. when you're new, you'll miss a lot



StephanieW: They need a network of crit partner, where you can just go a grab one. LOL



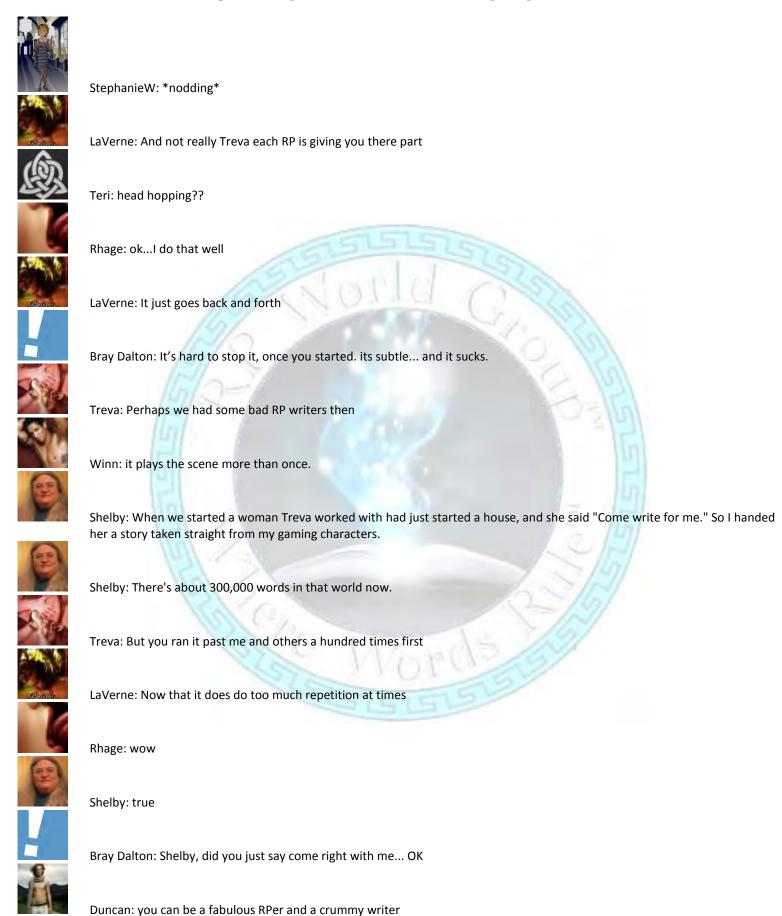
LaVerne: hahahahaha



Rhage: ok

Tarquin: As is head hopping.

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StephanieW: Do you like humor with erotica?

Beth: rhage that's my problem, i keep going back and editing more and more and then get stuck editing and not writing



Micah: I use my RP characters to do character development and to try out ideas for my books. I just created a chary yesterday and decided he was gonna be added to my book series.



Duncan: do you e-publish non-romance?



Treva: so many questions



Shelby: editing -- I'm ADD. one part of my brain holds the editing stuff, another writes



Lady Isis: Ah Treva are you reading the SLs hahahaha tension conflict heat aplenty



Lady Isis: Cool Micah



Marius: Right Isis lots of heat and conflict



Shelby: one thing to keep in mind -- conflict VS drama



Rhage: nono-romance????



Treva: We sometimes publish stories that are close to erotic romance but they have to have heat -- like mystery with strong erotic romance subplots for example



Micah: I am a conflict junkie. LOL. Ask anyone who knows me.



Duncan: @Rhage - :P



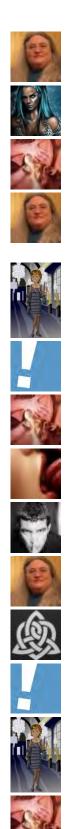
StephanieW: ???/This can be for both of you. Do you like humor with your erotica?



Rhage: the best!!



Treva: We like humor but it's often hard to do



Shelby: absolutely

Lady Isis: Good point Shelby there is a difference

Treva: People like to laugh but sometimes it's difficult to do that and get sexual tension

Shelby: anyone who can look at a naked human body and not thing "God has an awesome sense of humor" -- missed something

StephanieW: Ahh, yes. Timing has to be perfect

Bray Dalton: Treva, did they tell you to tell me humor was hard to do?? \*looks at Lady Isis\*

Treva: It's a well-known fact

Rhage: humor while having sex is hard really??

Marius: @ Shelby so true about the body

Shelby: humor takes really good timing -- Treva's one of the best I've read

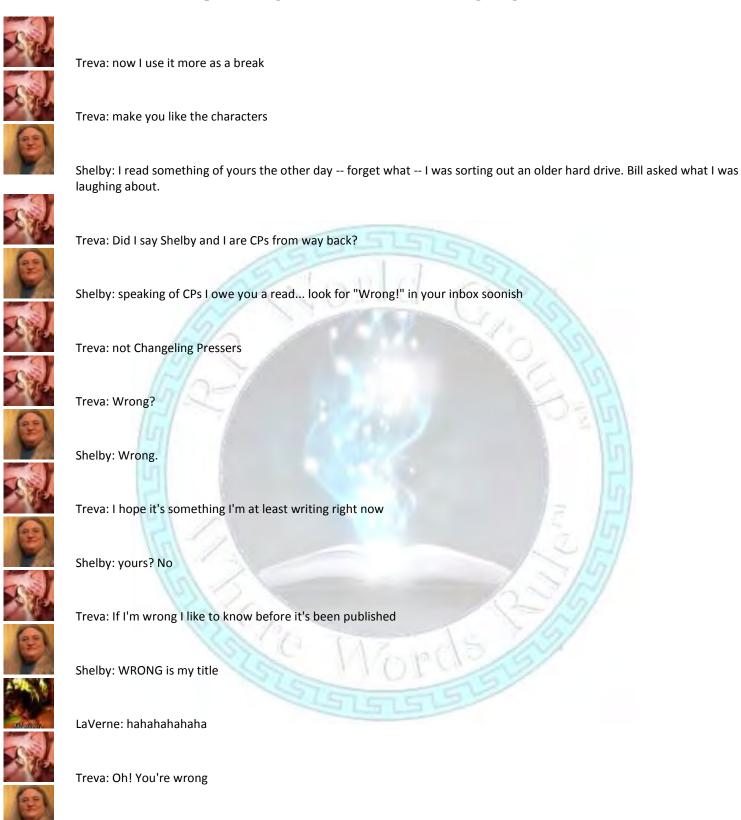
Teri: if you're laughing during sex something is not going right!!!

Bray Dalton: If you laugh at your partner, does that count?

StephanieW: Well, no humor while having sex, but a comedy of errors in the story

Treva: Haven't done a really funny erotic romance in a long time though

Rhage: give me a book to read....ok???



Shelby: you get to chew it up

Shelby: I am

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Rhage: Thank you ladies really enjoyed the hour!!!!

LaVerne: yes thank you both for being here

Marius: THANKS











Duncan: just dinnae cross her cat



Lady Isis: But my hand is hovering over Bray's name



Shelby: hmm, good point, Treva.



Treva: Ladies and gentlemen, it has been a delight but I discovered the DH fell asleep instead of manning the fort



Shelby: thanks for having us guys - I'm off to finish "Wrong!" so I can dump it on Treva before she escapes



Lady Isis: Thank you for coming - there will be lots more to come over the summer months

#### Thank you all for your participation...





















Lady Isis Tarquin

Killius

LaVerne Aniketos





















**Bray Dalton** 

Duncan Taryn

Mary Luce

Rhage

Micah

Teri

Marius StephanieW