

Episode 116

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SPEAKERS

Ryan Zee, Carissa Andrews



Carissa Andrews 00:09

The Indie Author revolution has been around for more than a decade. But we indies continue to push the boundaries of what we're capable of. From getting over initial prejudices to staring down perfectionism and author imposter syndrome. We've become a force to reckon with indie authors now wear more hats than ever as we strive to create a career full of meaning prosperity, potential. We've doubled the demands and continue to be rebels in the face of adversity. Now, after years of hearing the shelter, hustling, grind, we indies are rebelling again, gone are the days of publishing a book a month until we drop, and in its place, sow the seeds of a better way to rapid release, a way that feels incredible as we build a sustainable, lifelong author career, that not only increases our visibility and royalties, but it's all done with intention and ease. If you're ready to buck the system and become the visionary entrepreneur, I know you're meant to be, you've come to the right place. I'm Carissa Andrews international best selling indie author, and this is the author Revolution podcast. Welcome back to the author Revolution podcast, I am really glad that you're here this week. So I have been thinking an awful lot about my plotting process. And no, it doesn't just have to do with the fact that I have Ryan from plotter on the show today. In fact, I've really been thinking about the three day plan your series challenge and the way that I am currently teaching the process and helping indie authors to come up with their war book series, or their four book start to their series, whichever, and kind of thinking about the ways that I can evolve it to work even better than it is so far. And in specific for myself as well, because I do have new books that I'm in the process of working on. I think I mentioned this last week that I'm actually toying with the idea of doing a contemporary romance pen name. And so I have been using plotter to figure out this new pen name and to figure out the the new series that I'm working on. And I have to tell you, since they released the beta for plotter Pro, I have been having an absolute blast learning some of the new tools that are available in it, and being able to pick it up from my phone or from my iPad, even when I'm not on my laptop or on my you know, typical computer. Like if I'm just out and about and I'm like, Hey, I just thought of something really cool that I can use for this specific character, I can literally just open up the app, drop it in the information in the character section and move on. And not even like think twice about where that information is going to be held. And it's just worked so seamlessly that like wow, the the new, I don't know, plotter never ceases to amaze me, it just keeps getting better and better every time I kind of go in there and use it. I mean, obviously, they've been working on updates. And they've done such a great job

of always making sure to incorporate some of the things that their users are asking. And so like the evolution of plotter i that I've witnessed since I started has been incredible. But now with the usage of plotter Pro. Wow, you guys, this has like next leveled the plotting process. And that's something I don't say lightly. So as I go forward, you know, with rapid release roadmap, and with plotting out the plan, you're serious challenge. Don't be surprised if you see some new lessons coming into those courses, if you are already a student, because I have to tell you, you know the process that I used before plotter, it still works, it's still fantastic. But plotter has made it so much easier that I just can't in good conscience. Teach it the other way now, because it's it's been such an incredible new experience that has made crafting and creating the stories and the worlds that I'm telling so much easier. And I know for you it's going to do the same especially with those templates, guys, you know, the templates, right? The they have so many different really quick, easy templates to be able to understand the overall storyline for your plot. And it's just, it just makes the starting point of getting your stories and your your novels, your short stories, whatever your novella is written all the quicker and all the easier. So if you haven't yet tried plotter, I really really do encourage you to be thinking about it as you're listening to my conversation with Ryan over at plotter today, because he's going to be describing to you some of the new things that have come out With plotter Pro, from someone who has truly been through this journey, way before plotter existed way before, you know other programs have existed. I've seen the evolution of us as indie writers as we try to make this process of writing our books easier. Ryan and Cameron over at plotter have really done that this program is just one of those tools that I can foresee sticking around a very long time in our arsenal, and one that you know, you are never going to feel cheated investing in because it is that good. Now at the end of the show, I will give you the information on where you can go ahead and get signed up for plotter if you are not already a plotter, member or subscriber or whatever, because in order to get plotter pro, you have to be a subscriber to their email list. But the good news is you also get a 14 day free trial of plotter so it's well worth the effort of playing around in the program. Definitely 100% sure of that. So without further ado, I'm going to turn things over to the interviewer and let you kind of hear about the new things that are going on with plotter. And I'll let you make those decisions for yourself. Alright, let's get to it. Well, hey there, Ryan, it's so lovely to have you on the show again. So I told my audience in the beginning of the show about the last time that you were here and what we were discussing, but times have changed. There's some cool new stuff that's happening over in your plotter world. So do you want to tell us a little bit more about what's been rolling out?

R

Ryan Zee 06:30

Yeah, thanks so much for having me. So yeah, we are in the process of rolling out what we're calling plotter Pro, which is basically all of your fun plotter goodness now on the cloud. So plotter Pro, provides a web application provides cloud backups, and a bunch of other things we can talk about that, you know, basically allow you to use plotter more easily work from wherever you are, makes it more accessible, and people have been telling us that it makes the whole experience better. So glad to hear that.



Carissa Andrews 07:01

So what's the big difference between plotter the app and then plotter Pro.



 R

Ryan Zee 07:05

So the standard version of plotter that we have on our website, for example, is offline only. So it all saves locally to your desktop computer, it doesn't have like Cloud backups or collaboration features. Whereas the plotter pro version, you know, as I said, it comes with a web application, it comes with Cloud backups, you can actually collaborate in real time with other plotter Pro users. So if you have a coach, and editor, just a writing friend, that you work with a co author, you can plot out your books from real time, simultaneously working from the same file. And they're just like a bunch of little features, things we have planned, and some bigger features that we have planned for the future for the pro version, specifically. So sort of in the vein of Google Docs, like inline commenting, you know, the ability to share your file as sort of like an A View Only mode, kind of like you would have with Google Docs with other people, you could share that, for example, at least our plan is that you could share that with your readers, for example, to get feedback, maybe from beta users, and that kind of thing. So it could have some additional sort of marketing type of purposes in the future.



Carissa Andrews 08:13

That is really, really cool. So is there a price difference than I assumed between Potter and then plotter Pro? Yes,

 R

Ryan Zee 08:20

so the at the time of this recording, the pricing is not on the website. Currently, it's in a early kind of early access launch, sort of besides between kind of a beta launch, and a full fledged launch. So we don't have pricing that's public. But if you're on our email list, you will get pricing that's specific to essentially your customer status, whether you're a customer or not a customer, it's heavily discounted pricing at the moment. So I don't want to give a price because it might not be the price the person, you specifically get sure that he's you know, discounted and fairly significantly at this point.



Carissa Andrews 08:59

That's fantastic. So when is it officially rolling out then where like the prices are going to be set instead of being in beta and all that stuff? sort of thing?

 R

Ryan Zee 09:06

Yeah. It's a good question. It does depend on kind of the feedback we're getting on the product, any adjustments we make, want to make before we feel fully comfortable saying that the product is fully launched. It'll happen at some point this year. I don't. I think we're sort of we're starting to wait and see mode, making sure that people are happy with it before we let all the doors open and allow people to break things in ways we don't want them to. Sir,



Carissa Andrews 09:34

I totally understand that one, like having kids. So with plotter, if you're already a subscriber then have plotter and have access to it. Is that like, can you get plotter Pro for free or is it something that you pay a certain amount then I assume that's in the emails that we get right?

R

Ryan Zee 09:54

Yeah. So it does depend on what your customer status is. So there are some early adopters who have it included as part of what they've purchased. But the vast majority of people, it's an upgrade. Awesome. It's an affordable upgrade, I think. But it is an upgrade. And there, we are primarily promoting lifetime to begin with. But there will be annual offers as well.



Carissa Andrews 10:18

Awesome. Yeah, I know, I was actually playing with it yesterday, it was a lot of fun because I was like, Okay, I need to figure out how to get on my iPad and on my iPhone, and on my laptop and on my iMac. So it was like syncing it all together and getting it all working. It was awesome. And it works very seamlessly. I know that when I was kind of toying around with the app before I was like, I don't know that I'll probably use the app itself. And then when I went back to look at it with plotter Pro, the app is actually phenomenal. It worked really great, because I'd already uploaded my plotter plots, I guess. And everything was there, like sweet, and it's laid out so nice in the app. So that's looking awesome as well. So do want to tell us a little bit about how that changed.

R

Ryan Zee 10:57

Yeah. So the nice thing about the I mean, one of the nice things about the pro version is that it automatically syncs all your content across your devices. So if you have any, and you can also use it on all of your devices. So there are no device limitations. If you purchase plotter, Pro, you can use plotter on your desktop, on your mobile devices. On Chromebooks, even using the web app must have Microsoft Surface tablets that only work with the web app as well. And then so your content syncs across them. And then either the other nice thing about it is that it comes with Cloud backups now. So even on the on the mobile versions, they're closed their cloud backup, so if something happens to the wrong with your phone, you can contact our support team, and we can you know, help you recover your information. And the vast majority of cases,



Carissa Andrews 11:48

I noticed that you can do both to select for those people who are like, Oh, my God, the cloud scares me. You can actually do the cloud and do local at the same time, correct? Yes, yes, that's awesome. I have a couple of friends who are very much a like, I must have the hard like, it has to be on my local computer, or I will freak out kind of, you know, those kind of people. And so I was like, sweet. So they'll like this feature.

R

Ryan Zee 12:12

And so like, even with the so like with the web app, for example, you can there's like a button

and so like, even with the so like with the web app, for example, you can there's like a button on the web app, you can click to download the file locally, to your device. So we do try to make it possible to still store your stuff locally if you want to.



Carissa Andrews 12:27

Awesome. Yeah. Okay, so one of the cool things when I was digging around, I was like, Okay, this is another cool feature that not many developers have really, I don't think at least for authors tapped into. But you can work cross platform now to because of this, right? So like if I have an iPhone, but I'm working on a Windows computer, they'll still sync and they'll still work together, right?



Ryan Zee 12:47

Yep, yep. Yeah. So that's the database, you know, captures your data across any, any platform doesn't matter. You know, if you have a Linux computer, and a Android tablet and a apple smartphone, you're good to go.



Carissa Andrews 13:01

Nice. Nice. You got a Pentium? Probably not, but you know, hey. We're working.



Ryan Zee 13:09

We're working on it right now. Please, everyone. Yeah.



Carissa Andrews 13:11

My dad would be like. So I also read you and you mentioned that there's a collaboration feature. Now, is that feature available now? Or is that something that's rolling out?



Ryan Zee 13:23

Yeah, so the, the basic what I'm calling the basic version of the collaboration is currently available. So you can invite someone else who has a plotter, pro account, to work with you on the same file, and you can edit the same file at the same time. The features that are coming are the sort of the commenting features, the ability to see like an edit history. So I want to see what edits did my collaborator make, like that's a feature we have planned for the future. But the basic ability to collaborate in real time is already available.



Carissa Andrews 13:54

That is really cool. So how to how does that actually work? Then, like when you're in the the plot like where where do you go to see that? Is that pretty easily accessible? Does it makes

plot, like where where do you go to see that? Is that pretty easily accessible? Does it makes like, is it like, hello, it's this button right here. Like,

R

Ryan Zee 14:06

there's a, there's a share icon at the top right of the of the screen that you can click OK. It looks like one of those social media share icons. Now I'm gonna click that and it opens up a window where you can then insert the the email of the person you're trying to share with, you just need to make sure it's the same email they use to purchase plotter.



Carissa Andrews 14:27

Okay, awesome. Does plotter pro mean having to always be online then? Or is this something that you can do like offline for a bit? And then when you're back on, say, an internet network, it then uploads? Like, does it do it? Does it sync normally? Or do you have to like push a sync button?

R

Ryan Zee 14:44

Yeah, it's a good question. So you don't need to be online to use it. If you're offline, and then you go online, the changes will push automatically to the cloud. So it's pretty seamless in that regard. I mean, so you can use it. Yeah. So yeah, you can use it offline. You cannot use it online. But Obviously you can't use the web application offline, but you don't need a desktop or mobile applications you can.



Carissa Andrews 15:05

That's great. So you can that's a good point that I don't think we did. We talked about that last time that you can actually use plotter within the web application itself as well? Or is that new with plotter Pro?

R

Ryan Zee 15:15

Yes, new with plotter Pro. So there's now a standalone browser version that comes with pro, that actually adds some interesting features that we figured out during the process of talking with customers that we didn't really recognize initially. But select there either ways, you can zoom in with the browser version, that you can zoom in with the desktop version, for example, just using the browser based zooming, which some people have found really helpful. And you can also, for example, have different tabs of the plotter, interface open in different tabs of your internet browser. So if you wanted the timeline in the outline, open in different tabs of the same project, you could do that to easily switch back and forth. Oh, that's. So there are a few things like that. You can also have like two different projects and two different tabs of the web browser. So there's some interesting ways you can use it that aren't possible with the desktop version, right? No,



Carissa Andrews 16:08

that's a good point. Yeah, like, oh, I might have to try those out. Because I like to look at I put everything horizontal, I like to look everything. I don't know, I don't know why I'm a horizontal plotter. That's how I work. And so it's like when you're trying to see the whole thing, like, oh, my gosh, I gotta keep scrolling over to the thing. Or otherwise, it gets too small. And you're like, I can't even read that right now. So I'm like, Hmm, some cool zoom thing might help you. Yeah, I might have to do that a world that's awesome. Well, is there anything new that we're not we haven't covered on plotter flow, or on product plotter and we can talk today in general.



Ryan Zee 16:47

No, I can't I can't think of anything specifically. We just released by popular demand, we just released languages translations for German and Russian. So if anyone listening to this speaks either German and Russian, you're in luck just came out. But we had a lot of people from Germany asking for translations. It was sort of a de luge. It was like, wow, I didn't realize you were so popular in Germany. But that was kind of fun. So



Carissa Andrews 17:15

well, I know we were talking before the show started. I mean, plotter is like the thing to use when it comes to like our three day planner series challenge. People all over the place are just so excited about plotter and so it I mean, that's not a surprise to me, right? It's just not. Oh, my goodness. Okay. So if people want to get like if they've got plotter and they want to get plotter Pro, how do they go about doing it? Or if they are no new, and they want to get plotter Pro? How do they go about doing it?



Ryan Zee 17:44

So I don't think anyone's gonna like what I'm going to say here. But my like, first thing if you're an existing customer, you will be getting emails about it. If you're not familiar with plotter, you've never signed up for the organ or for the free trial, I would sign up for the trial and you'll get an email about it. If you're on the free trial, but you haven't purchased Potter yet. You will also say Mansur get an email for it.



Carissa Andrews 18:08

Awesome. So basically, it's like in order to learn how to get plotter pillow, you have to join and like get the trial first and test it out. It's not a bad thing that play around with the dang thing people. It's awesome. Once you otter you never go back. Is that what it's called? With the tagline to me?



Ryan Zee 18:26

Well, I think the tagline is like once you plot the fun don't stop.



Carissa Andrews 18:30

Night. Okay, well, that works better. That's actually a better one.



Ryan Zee 18:35

It's my it's my take on that pringles one.



Carissa Andrews 18:37

Don't get off. You can't stop that one. I'm right there with you though. I have to agree. Because once I started using flutter, I don't use anything else now. You ruin plotting for me? Or even better. You bested me save the value. Yeah, you've made it better. Well, awesome. Ryan, thank you so much for being here. I will make sure that there's links and everything pointing people towards plotter and how to get that in the show notes. And if there's anything else that you need, or want to share, go ahead. Otherwise, I'm so glad you were here. Thank you for joining us.



Ryan Zee 19:12

Yeah, thanks so much for having me and just for anyone. I don't think I actually mentioned it. The website is plotter.com pl o TT r.com. That's a good point that's got that in there. Thanks, Ryan. Thanks so much for having me.



Carissa Andrews 19:27

Well, guys, what do you think? Doesn't plotter pro sound really cool. Now I can tell you from the flip side that it is really cool. I've like I said in the interview, I am playing with flutter Pro. And I've been working with how to incorporate it on my iPad and on my iPhone and I messing around with it and in the different various formats. And since the interview, I have gotten the chance to play around with the web browser version and I have to tell you, it is just as cool as Ryan describes it seriously. There's so many different ways to be able to plot and see Your plots. And not only that, but I think we've mentioned this before, I even use plotter to plan out my year in the books that I'm going to be writing so that I can see in a Gantt Chart Style, like, what does my plot? Or what does my year look like? When should I be working on what book? When should I be working on the edits for that book? How should I be planning out the next series, you know, whatever the case is, it allows me to see it in a way that is just a visual representation of my launch strategy for the year and it just helps me stay on track. And there's so many other uses for plotter but it is just obviously the best at being able to help you plot out your books and your series. As a plotter, pro early adopter, I have to tell you though, it is so worth the investment to be able to, you know, sync up your stuff on your phone to be able to walk out the door. And know that if you have one of those really great insightful ideas or a new character pops up, or you think of a new place that you want to do, or even a new chapter comes into mind and you understand better or deeper how the storyline is going to flow, you

can enter all of those things into your plot. And for those of you who plot everything out in advance, and then go on to write the export into Scrivener is so incredible, it works so great to be able to see everything, it puts your chapters in there, it puts your scenes in there, the whole process is seamless. And I just I don't know, I cannot speak more highly of this program. And it's one that like I said in the intro, I am going to be incorporating more and more into the courses that I'm teaching. And so if you're a student of rapid release roadmap, or if you join the three day planner series challenge at any point, these are things that are going to be incorporated into those courses, because plotter has just become the tool that dominates over all else. And while Like I said though, those other methods of being able to plot out your books are still relevant, they still they still work. I don't know there's just something about plotter that makes it a fun way to get those books out. And I think that's super important. We all have this process and sometimes it is more difficult than it needs to be. And so when you have a tool like plotter that really helps you to create the storylines that you're going for, and helps you do it in a way that makes it fun. Hey, man, that's that's where it's at. So if you are interested in signing up for plotter, if you're not yet a plotter subscriber or a plotter, user, make sure you head over to authorrevolution.org forward slash plotter that's authorrevolution.org forward slash p l o T T er. And I will make sure to get you a link that sends you straight over to that 14 day free trial. Or if you go over to the show notes for today, like if you want to get the transcript or check out the video from the actual conversation that we had, you can do that as well. All you got to do is head over to authorrevolution.org Ford slash 116. And all of the transcript information, all the links to plotter and everything like that will be right there on the page. Alright guys, well, that's pretty much what we have for today. But I do want to mention, in case you're hearing this live, I want you to know about a brand new opportunity that I am launching, and it's only going to be for five days. So perk your ears real quick, because it's an important one, I hope you are on my email list. Because if you're not, you're going to miss out on an opportunity to get what I'm calling the all access pass to author revolution courses. It's basically a premium membership that allows you to get access to all of my courses, every single one of them. But for a membership monthly rate. And it's a heavily discounted rate. Now, if you want to get more information or anything like that, because you're not yet on my email list, let me know by reaching out to Carissa at authorrevolution.org. And I will fill you in I will get you moved over into the email sequences that are going on right now. Because there's a lot of fun stuff I have already put together in order to get people excited about what it is that I'm currently working on. It will probably come back at a different time different location, but it will never be launched again at the price that it's currently at. So like I said, if you're interested in a membership to the courses that I have, it's kind of like Kindle Unlimited, but for other evolution courses. That's kind of how I view it. Well just email me like I said at Carissa at authorrevolution.org and I will fill you in on all the details. I really believe as we're going forward with this year 2022. My goal my mission in life is to help raise as many indie authors up as possible. And I want you all to be thinking about what is possible for you and in specific what monetary income is possible for you. What are Are you striving for what are you trying to reach for? I had an epiphany, the other week where I realized that with my courses with the things that I'm trying to do for myself, I have the opportunity to teach you how to do the same thing. And for me, that means striving for a millionaire, author, lifestyle, a millionaire, author, career, and that is something that I'm going to continue doing and keep going for until I have made that happen. And so if you also want to have a millionaire author career, if you also want to strive to be there, keep following this progress, keep following my progress, join in the communities that I'm building, joining the courses that I'm building, because I promise you, I will get us all there. I am working every single day and making sure that we are building the author revolution we really want and I will not stop until we make it happen. So in the meantime, I want you to be thinking about

those things. Think about what it is you want to accomplish this year. How many books are you plotting? How many books are you writing? And what is it that you really want out of your Indie Author career? Then, rock and roll, man, it's time to go forth and start your author revolution.