

Episode 150 - 2

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SPEAKERS

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Carissa Andrews 00:11

The indie author revolution has been around for more than a decade, the 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, that potential, we have juggled the demands and continue to be rebels in the face of adversity. Now, after years of hearing the shelter, hustle and 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. Hey there my writerly friend. Welcome back to the Author Revolution Podcast. I am thrilled that you have joined us this week, because it's a fun one, we get to talk about series. It's one of my favorite topics to talk about. Other than obviously, manifestation and law of attraction and being magical, awesome, incredible co creators of our reality. But this week, because we are getting so close to PREPtober, I want to revisit this idea of Do you know, what you want to write? Do you have an idea of what it is you're trying to create? Because as PREPtober starts, you know what that means, right? It means NaNoWriMo is around the corner. And so if you're trying to create at least one book for NaNoWriMo, why not, at the same time, create a four book series. This is the whole goal, the whole concept that I teach, in the three day Plan Your Series Challenge, which by the way, is going to be launching live and for free, October 3 through the seventh. And so of course, this is kind of like a plug for it, because I want you to be thinking about, okay, if you're going to spend time prepping for a single novel, what about a full series because you want to be able to create a sustainable, lifelong author career. And if you're going to do that, if you're going to spend some time prepping your novel for Nano, why not plan out the whole series so that you can create something that will sustain you beyond NaNoWriMo. And you know what you're trying to get to? Because sometimes we often, especially at nano will plan out our book, and then we write the book during nano and then we don't do anything with it. Because we don't know where to go from there. Like what is the next step like? How do we elevate beyond that? How do we right beyond that. And so if you plan for a series at this time during

PREPtober, it's the perfect time because now you've got all the energy back in your play for Nano, and it's going to help you catapult the series and get it off the ground. One of the things I want you to be thinking about as you are getting started now, whether you're going to join PREPtober or not, whether you're going to hop into the free Plan Your Series Challenge or not, or whether you are just going to write a single book, or eventually turn it into a series, I want you to think about like, Do you know what kind of series you want to write. We all know that having a series under our belt is one of the most beneficial things that we can do for our author career. And in part because it makes us more visible, a lot of readers especially KU readers, like series, because they like to immerse themselves in specific worlds and to understand the characters on a deeper level. And so you can make a lot more money that way you can catapult your author platform in a broader sense using a series. But if you don't understand what types of series there are, you can kind of get yourself a little bit lost in the weeds because there's a lot of things to be, you know, thinking about you've got you know, all these things though, the world building the character is how you're going to intertwine or maybe not intertwine the series story concepts like how is it all going to play. And sometimes people get a little bit overwhelmed when they have more than one book to plan out. And so that's where my expertise comes in. That's where I love. Maybe it's the Virgo in me it probably is where I love seeing all the data, right, spreading all the data out and then finding out how it all connects together. What I do in the planner series challenges, we talk about the three different types of series creation. And there are different types based off of how different you know teachers teach things. But this is how I teach like, there are three major archetypes when it comes to story structure for series, the first one being the never ending series. And to me, what this looks like is a storyline that will continue to thread through the entire series, like there's going to be characters that crossover there's going to be storylines, that crossover, it's going to be intertwined, but not so planned out that you plan the entire never ending series in advance, like you have room to play. You know what I mean? My Diana Hawthorne supernatural series is like this, where it's like each book builds on the ones before it, but I don't understand or even try to map out too far in advance. Like, I'll have a plan for like the next two, maybe or the next three, just so I kind of know where I'm going. But I don't necessarily have to get into the nitty gritty details of it, right. But the thing to know here is that it can continue going on until I choose to end it like I can just keep adding more to the storyline until it goes. It's like having, you know, a supernatural series going on. And each episode is a book, you can just you know, if you've got a monster of the week kind of thing, you just keep adding until you decide you no longer want to keep going. That's the sort of concept of never ending series has. Now the second series type is going to be the finite arc, it's kind of the opposite of the never ending series, and that you obviously are going to plan out for a specific finite number of books, maybe it's four books, and then it ends, maybe it's a trilogy, maybe it's a duology, maybe it's nine books, whatever the number is, you deliberately choose that number so that as you're creating the series, you know how each book is going to stand out, you know how each book is going to interconnect, you understand how each book is almost like a level up for the book before it. So that by the time the reader gets to the end of the series, their understanding of the world that you've just created of the characters and everything that's in it is so vastly different from when they first started that they're just so excited to start sharing it with others because they're like, oh my gosh, just wait until you get to the end of this series. It's amazing. Now, my Windhaven books, for example, are more like that, where there was a finite number, there were four books planned, I knew exactly what was going to happen in each one of those books, I knew how each character, how each storyline was going to level up because of it. That is a really powerful way to be able to do it. As long as you make sure that you are keeping things tight, like you understand how Book Two is going to be different from book one. And you don't let the kind of cookie cutter template thing get in your way, you want to make sure that readers really feel like each book has its own vibe, its own kind of thing going on, right? Because that's gonna

keep them moving forward. And then finally is the standalone series. Now we're looking at those kind of like, I would say more like a Nancy Drew is a standalone series, where there's not really a whole lot that connects the series other than Nancy, right, Nancy kind of runs round, she does her thing. She's pretty, pretty cool. But you don't have to read, you know, book 12 before you read book 32 You don't have to read book one before you read book 12 You can just kind of read it in and out of order. Because it's all about the mystery of the week. It's the thing that goes on. And so you don't have to have like this in depth storyline or subplot that runs through the whole thing, which I would actually say with a never ending series or with a finite arc, you definitely want that because people are in those series for the immersion of it. Where with a standalone, you can definitely do a lot of fun things that is more like the monster of the week. And then it ends like each storyline has its arc it and the only thing connecting them is maybe one object could be a house, you know, like the house is the thing that connects them throughout the whole thing could be Nancy, it could be the Hardy Boys. It could be fear Street, it could be you know, something along those lines where there is there's obviously something that connects it as a series but not necessarily need to be read in any specific order. Hopefully that makes sense. What series type do you have? Or are you considering working on because as you go forward, you're gonna want to know how those things all interplay and how to create them efficiently and effectively so that the readers love what they're going to be getting from you. And now, we like I said, we talked a little bit about the Plan Your Series Challenge coming back here in October for PREPtober. So again, it starts October 3, it goes through the seventh. And each day we delve into different aspects of planning your series, we are going to conquer things like your mindset because there are people who get overwhelmed trying to not only write one book, but to try to plan out a whole scene. yours. So yes, we are going to talk about mindset because you know me, I can't not talk about mindset in a planning serious challenge. So we're going to do that. And we're going to talk about impostor syndrome. And we're going to talk about limiting beliefs and how to get over those as you're creating this series. Because if there's one thing I have seen over and over again, do you real authors careers, it's that they don't believe they can. And I am going to put the kibosh on that. That is a lie, a lie a lie, you can absolutely do this 100%. And I'm going to show you how we're also going to talk about things like mind mapping, and really getting all those thoughts in your head out onto the page. Because we have ideas go lower. We're authors, we see things, we extrapolate data, and we want to be able to play around with different concepts and like mix and match and do fun things and have some twists and create characters that are wonky and crazy and whatever the case might be. But how do you get all those things to jive in a storyline? Well, you do that by mind mapping. And by planning it out. And by putting it all on the page. And figuring out what works best for your storyline. It's so so important, and it's so helpful. And then of course, we're going to dive into like the concepts of outlining, like, are you going to do a skeletal outline? Are you going to do a series plan outline? Are you going to do your chapter by chapter synopsis so that you can continue to write even when things get crazy, and I will tell you right now, that chapter by chapter synopsis, have saved my ass numerous times. If you've been following this podcast for a while, you know that the only thing that saved midlife, Wolfpack was the chapter by chapter synopsis, when the trees landed on my cars. And we had to figure out the whole like insurance fiasco. during that timeframe, it was nuts. But I was still able to write and get the book done on time and out the door, because of the fact that I knew in advance what it was I was trying to accomplish. Now, that's the power of creating your worlds first, that's the power of understanding what type of series you're writing. That's the power of having those outlines created in advance. I know some of you are pantsers, or, you know, maybe you're discovery planners, that's fine, too. If you are someone who likes to uncover the storyline as you're going what's really kind of interesting for me, that I found, because I used to be a pantsers. What I loved about that was the discovery process. But when you're creating like the chapter by chapter synopsis, and really kind of thinking about, like, what's going to happen

throughout the storyline, and how they're going to connect, you're telling that story to yourself, but in a condensed way, so that it concretizes in your brain. And by the time you start reading it, it's like, of course, it's going to happen this way, because I already planned it. Of course, this is how the story unfolds. And it feels so good to know, as you're writing it, that it's all coming together and weaving together just the right way. It's so cool. And so I hope that you will consider joining us for this challenge. Like, it's just gonna be so fun, I launched this thing. I think this is the fourth time that I've launched it live and launched it for free for the indie author community, because I think when it comes to PREPtober authors need that encouragement, we need the community and the engagement for the prepping part. Because it's just, it can get so overwhelming and crazy. And so I hope you'll join it, all you have to do is head over to authorrevolution.org/planyourseries, it's all one word, planyourseries to get signed up. And you'll start getting the emails and everything for you know as the the series begins and where it starts and how it's being delivered to you because it's in a different platform than where it normally is. If you purchase the planner series challenge. And if you have the planner service challenge and want to do it again and have the community engagement aspect of it, join again, just have some fun with it. It's all about getting into that community of like mindedness in the spirit of PREPtober that is just so incredibly fun. We I don't know what it is, why do we love NaNoWriMo and PREPtober. Of course, we know why it's because we're all doing the same thing. We're all struggling with the same struggles. And we are all enjoying the discovery process of our words and our worlds. It's just the most fun time of the year. I love this time of the year. And so as we get started with PREPtober you can join this Plan Your Series Challenge. We also have a live coaching call on Friday, the seventh of October. So if you get stuck, or if you're feeling like oh my gosh, I wish I had someone I could talk to about the things that I'm still trying to figure out. You can hop on this live zoom call, everybody's in the same room. We're all going to talk about our stuff. And so you can hop on the call with me and we will discuss anything that you need to be able to keep yourself moving forward with planning this series. If that sounds like fun, definitely join in because we're going to have an absolute blast. Now I myself I'm in the middle of writing ruins. So I don't have a series that I actually have to actively plan out. But it's because I've already done the work. I've already done the legwork of understanding the two series. And I'm currently in the process of writing. So I've got my neverending series, which is Diana Hawthornes. And then I've got my finite arc, which is the accidental Alpha series. So after that one's done, I go switch back to accidental alpha, and I keep moving forward. But I've already planned all that stuff out, I already know what's coming. And it frees me up to be able to help you do more. It's just such a wonderful time, it's just going to be fantastic. So make sure that you do join, if you're interested in getting that series going for PREPtober. And beyond that, I hope that you are going to take on NaNoWriMo because if you've never done it before, I cannot speak more highly of just the energy and the enthusiasm and the the people who get involved with Nano and want to create their worlds and support one another. It's just there is nothing like it. It is just such a fantastic time of year. And if you want to be able to prep for Nano, if you want help with understanding how NaNoWriMo works, any of those things, we can talk about all of that on that Friday, as we are ending the challenge because I love Daniel, I started my career with NaNoWriMo with *pandas*, I, the very first time I created that book, The first time I created any book well, for the idea of eventually publishing anyway, it was through NaNoWriMo. And it was just it was so fun. It was such a fun experience. And I just anytime I have the chance to write during nano I do now of course this national novel writing month I will be going to Vegas and participating in 20 books Vegas, so that would like put the kibosh on it anyway. But at the same time, I'll probably still be writing during most of November. All right, I want you to really think about what you want to accomplish as we go into this latter half of 2022. What amazing things can you create, as you kind of shift into the last half of this year? And then thinking about the future you like, what's going to happen in early 2022? What if you created your series, like we sit down through PREPtober, through this Plan

Your Series Challenge, we map out four books together, you get one of them done from Nano, and then you start writing book two right away in January because you can because you can think about how amazing that's gonna feel right? I love that feeling knowing I know exactly what the next thing is, I have to write and knowing when I can, because I know what my process is going to look like I understand how the writing sprint is going to look, I understand exactly what it is I'm trying to accomplish. That is the power I am trying to express and trying to relate to you not only through the challenge, but through everything that I do. We are in control and can co create and create the reality that we're looking for. And we do it by deciding we can we just make that decision and move forward confidently knowing that it's ours. All right. If you'd like to get the transcript for today's podcast episode, make sure you head over to authorrevolution.org/150 This was the 150th freaking podcast episode guys. What? What a great time to do it too with the Plan Your Series Challenge. That's amazing. Okay, I'm rocking with that. I'm pretty happy about that. Didn't even realize until I looked over at one number we're at. Oh my gosh, okay, so yes, head over to authorrevolution.org/150 to download the transcript or even to get the link to sign up for the Plan Your Series Challenge, the free version where we are doing it live and launching it on my website. Alright, have fun, go forth, and start your author revolution.