

Episode 155

Tue, Oct 25, 2022 3:12PM 38:49

SUMMARY KEYWORDS

nanowrimo, ml, nano, people, region, year, writing, november, writers, discord, liaison, write, author, fantasy, events, municipal, emails, stickers, published, nana

SPEAKERS

Carissa Andrews, Ashley Long



Carissa Andrews 00:12

The indie author revolution has been around for more than a decade. So we indies continue to push the boundaries of what we're capable of. From getting over initial prejudices to staring down perfectionism and author impostor 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, and potential. We've 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. Well, hello there and welcome back to the Author Revolution Podcast. I am so happy that you're joining me this week. Oh, guys, this week, I am so excited. Today, we have Ashley Long coming on. She's a municipal liaison for NaNoWriMo. And she is in the Tennessee region. And what's really interesting about this is that Ashley and I connected on LinkedIn of all places, like I post things about the podcasts and things that I'm doing out on LinkedIn, she happened to go searching to see if anyone even talks about NaNoWriMo on LinkedIn, and came to me, she found me and we started chatting a little bit back and forth through the DMS on LinkedIn. And we found that we had so much in common and so much that we loved about the NaNoWriMo process that I just couldn't help myself a had to invite her onto the podcast to be able to talk to you a little bit about what NaNoWriMo municipal liaisons also called MLs do for NaNoWriMo. And for Wrimos in general. So like, what do they do in order to support the people who are taking on NaNoWriMo trying to write their novel and getting those 50,000 words in during the month of November? What do they do? And should you even become one? These are all questions that we go over and we talk about in the podcast today. And I know that you are going to find it just as fascinating to listen to Ashley as I did the first time around when I was listening to her as well. So without further ado, let's hop into this podcast interview. Welcome Ashley, to the Author Revolution Podcast. I'm so excited that you're here. I've spoke a little bit in the introduction about how we met and a little bit about what like what I know about you, but I would really love for you to tell my audience a little bit more about who you are and your writing experience and

what it is you do. Okay, So I don't I'm not a writer by trade yet. I am a former music teacher. So I guess musician is like my first creative background. And it kind of leads itself well to getting into writing because I did some songwriting and stuff when I was more when I was a teenager. But so I currently, I'm working as an instructional designer instead of a teacher, which usually I have to explain what that means. Basically, I designed training courses, if you've ever taken a training class for a job or anything, it could be online or in person. And the kind of a cool thing I found, when I started this job was I get to write a little bit as part of my job. So I might have to write like a scenario or a case study for a training course or take the information someone gives me and turn it into a script for our elearning modules. So that was kind of a perk when I got into my first job and I was like, Oh, wait, I get to write a script. Okay. So, you know, it's not what I necessarily want to be writing, but it's kind of cool that I get to, you know, include that in my job and occasionally I do get to do some writing. So as far as writing goes, I've been writing since I was a kid, and I haven't published anything yet but I do have you know, manuscripts that are done and need some extensive editing and sometimes rewriting but with, it's hard with, you know, being in a master's program and working full time and stuff to find the time to get that done. So I'm hoping next year is going to be my year to kind of start getting some things out there because I graduated December so... Congrats on that. Yeah. So and I mostly write, like fantasy, urban fantasy, anything. That's not really based in a realistic sense. Same same. I'm starting to kind of branch out to try to do some more like romance and just regular romance. We'll see if I can keep the vampires and stuff out of it. I always feel like I tried to start writing something that's not fantasy. And somehow I'm like, oh, I need a vampire in here. All right, have a shift or some magic show up or something? Yeah. Oh, I love it that I can still relate. That's epic. Okay, so we need to talk about natto though, because then you've got like this really cool, special title that we need to discuss because we're coming up on NaNoWriMo. What has your NaNoWriMo journey been? Like? When was the first time that you participate in it? So I actually think I was listening to one of your nano podcasts. And I think we started maybe the same year. You I think you said something about like you did nano in your head. Yeah. Do you like did it but you didn't like officially do it? Yeah. So I think that was two in 2010. Yeah. And that's when my first official nano was, it was a horrible year, we'll just you know, I didn't know right here. Technically, the year I signed up on Nana, and kinda got involved. And I think I wrote like, 2000 words or something, you know, I just I didn't really get it. I wasn't, I didn't really lean on the local group and everything didn't get involved. So I didn't even know local groups were a thing. Like I literally just got my little sticky pad out and everyday wrote down how many numbers of words I got, right, inching my way towards 50k. That's how I did it. I didn't even do it on their website. Yet, like, I knew there was a group I was in Columbia, South Carolina at the time, and I knew there was a group and I was a member of their region on the website. But I got the emails, I just never, I'm very shy. So I didn't want to show up at one of the events or anything. And so funny story that April, I had started hula hooping, which is a completely different story. I love it. But there was a hoop group in Columbia. And I went and you know, started meeting people. And we were giving out like, email addresses and stuff to start like a, you know, a little newsletter and everything. And one of the ladies there gave her email address. And I was like, why does that name sound really familiar? And we got to talking. And it turns out, she was the ML for Columbia. And I've been getting emails from her all the last November about Nano. Funny. Okay. So before we go much further, what does ml stand for? For those who are listening? It's short for municipal liaison, which is basically a fancy term for volunteer community organizer. Nice. It'd be much easier to say because I trip over municipal liaison every single time I say, it's just a fancy term. Because why everyone says ml out just Yeah. Yeah. So of course, I met her and she dragged me to events that next November, I had my end, my you know, kind of person who was in charge. He's like, come on, come with us come to this thing. And I knew people because you know, I get really like awkward about social situations. And most writers almost. And that year, I hit my 50k. So I felt like going to you know,

groups really helps motivate you during the month when it's such a crazy, crazy thing. And I've been doing nano ever since. And it's some years I don't do quite as much, especially the few years in between where I wasn't leaving agree. But you know, I try my best to hit 50k every year. So if you've done nano on an off since 2010, but you haven't published yet. What is stopping you? I got this. I'm like, What are you doing? I love the thrill of like writing it the first time. But you know, and I can edit other people's stuff all day long. You like send it to me, let me read it. Let me you know, especially like line edits and stuff. But when I have to get to my own stuff, I'm just like, I do a lot of editing in my head. And some of the Nano drafts needs some serious work like my very first one. I have a complete rewrite plan for it, which is what I'm hoping to start on in January, because I'm actually taking it from a non fantasy spy thriller to a sci fi spy thriller. Nice. So like most of this stuff needs a lot of work and I just haven't had the time or you know brainpower with everything else to put into actually editing things. And so I feel Yeah, I get that's my that's my big Hold up right now. But I have some stuff that I think I can get out in the near future. And I want to work on a romance series for next year to kind of start putting some stuff out there while I work on the bigger, more in depth world building fantasy stuff. Gotcha. I completely understand that too. I've gotten to the point with all of my fantasy books that I'm like, you know, I want to try something new. And I've had this series in my head that kind of popped in a couple of years ago, and I'm like, I am not. I'm not a romance author, what's happening with my brain? What's going on here? But it hasn't left me alone until finally I'm like, you know, what, I'm just gonna try it and see what happens. We'll write it. I'll do it in the background of whatever else I'm actually doing and whatnot. Sure. So we'll see what happens next year. I'll be starting that in January as well. But it'll be under a different pen name. I won't be using Karissa Andrews? I don't know. We'll see how it goes. Yeah, I definitely separated off for on my twitter with my pen names. I have one that I separated off for the romance stuff to kind of keep the fantasy and romance separate. It's so smart. Because with Amazon and the way that the algorithms work, if you start to mesh those two together, it gets a little confused. And so you get romance readers coming to your fantasy stuff. And going through that, what the why the I mean, vice versa. So yeah, so it makes sense to keep them separate. Although I do know many authors who have been established in fantasy for a while and then switched to romance and they do fine. So I don't know. Well, I'm not gonna do that. We'll see what happens. Okay, so you joined quite a while ago, and you had works that you need to start publishing. FYI. Get them out there. You don't know what you don't know until you do it. Come on. I'll be your cheerleader. Okay, so what obviously got you to the point then, because now you're a municipal liaison? What happened there? How did that get that whole thing happened? Well, I moved out of Colombia to the Florence, South Carolina region, which is like a smaller area about two hours away. And they had a region, but it was super small. And the ML there was kind of had kind of, I guess, I don't really know what happened. But he's kind of took a step back. He was still technically the ML. But basically, that year, I was like, Hey, can you help. So I kind of ran the region that year, he basically passed the baton to me. So unofficially, I was the ML and like, I think it was 2013. And then in 2014, I officially took over the spot for that group, and started kind of building that region up because with a super small region, especially compared to Colombia, which is like the capital of the state and everything. So, you know, I started getting a group of core nano members. And we started meeting outside of Nana months and started a thing called PD riders, which the areas called the PD region because it's near the PD river. So we, you know, started doing a lot of other things. I started up a website, and you know, featured the authors who have books published, and they would do blog posts. And we even did some local festivals where they got together and split the cost of a booth to like, then their books and everything. So it was really great. So it was kind of something that started as me being the ML for the Nano thing. And it took off into something more. But unfortunately, I had to leave South Carolina in 2018, because I had some stuff change in my life. And so I ended up back in my hometown and East Tennessee. So I had a few

years in there where I wasn't an ML for a region. And there's not a region where I live now, because again, it's a small town. Sure. But I, a couple years after I've been back with the ML for what's called the elsewhere region, which is pretty much everyone in a state or geographic area that doesn't have their own little group. I live in elsewhere as well. So you know! So one of those ml stepped down and I was like, Hey, y'all need another ml. So I got back on as the leader for the elsewhere region here. And this year, I'm like the lead ml because the other two ml has had to step down for various region reasons. And we I kind of put feelers out was like, Hey, does anyone want to jump in and help? Nice. So we have another new ml, which is awesome. But yeah, it's been kind of like ups and downs and ebbs and flows. But I just I love being an ML elsewhere is a little weird, because it's a virtual region, mostly, which has been fine the last two years, because we've not been able to do in person events due to COVID. So this year, we finally get to plan some in person events. But you know, elsewhere, since we're so spread out, it's mostly virtual events. So we have a few pockets of rhinos in certain places that we're going to try to post a couple of things. And some organizations are what they call come right in locations. We have a library that does that. Yeah, yeah. So we're going to try to do some more stuff with them this year since we can officially host events. Okay, so you're gonna have to, for me, and the way that I've described it often on the podcast is is the online version of it because to me, that's, that's pretty much all I really have the option to do for the most part. Like I said, I've had a friend who I think we're talking before the podcast started, who was an ML and she did a, like a little local thing here, but it was in a small town, like, five of us showed up. So it was really tiny. But can you describe what is it that the MLS do? And like, explain these like in person events. Right? So basically, we have just a very few because it is a volunteer position, there are very, just very few actual requirements as far as physically hosting events, just because, you know, it's volunteer. So we mostly have to host some sort of kickoff party to kind of get people going and then we have at the end to TGIF, thank God it's over. And I know that feeling at the end of November. yes, like 1201 On December, it's over. So we send out weekly emails that you've probably gotten before from your regional ML to you know, cheer people on let people know what's going on. Because of course, Nanos, a nonprofit. So they do, you know, donation days, and, you know, initiatives like that. So we, we like to let people know about those things going on, because some people might not know about that. And basically just, you know, get to cheer people on, help people out. And every MLW kind of runs their region a little differently. And it kind of depends on your, your group and who you have, you know, if you're in like New York City, obviously, it's going to be way different than a small, you know, rural area. So, one of the things that I find myself doing a lot is when we are doing a write in whether it be virtual or online is helping people work through things if they get stuck, you know, and so I feel like MLS also kind of have to have a good grasp on how to write certain genres and everything and at least, you know, know how to what kind of questions to ask to help people get through their their roadblocks, so you know, kind of guide them through so and that's one of the things that I love about it is getting to help writers kind of brainstorm while they're trying to ride if they get stuck, or, you know, cheering people on motivating people. And as far as in person writings go, they are a lot of fun. Usually, we just plan a couple hours, it could be I have hosted at someone's house before in a small rural area when we all kind of knew each other and stuff. But typically we shy away from that and try to do public spaces of course. So spend a lot of time at Panera Bread a lot of time at Barnes and Noble. Now, you must be in a bigger smaller town than I am because I don't have either one of those the nearest Panera and Barnes and Noble is an hour and a half south of me. Yeah, that was that was when I was in South Carolina, okay. That was in South Carolina. And but we also you know, do coffee shops, libraries really anywhere that will let people come in and sit for a long time and, and right. And typically when you get together with other riders, it's kind of like, Well, that seems weird. Are you just going to do sit there together at the same place on your computers? Yeah, so really, it's more like, you know, you get to talk to people about stuff. If you get stuck,

like I was just talking about, you can be like, Hey, guys, what do you think about this, you know, or click on a name for something, you know. Come on, that's what Scrivener is for. It has like a whole name calculator thing? I don't know. HA! So and then we'll run we call them word wars, where in the first region I was in, but like word sprints, basically. Okay, so you want to do it, like more competitively and see who had the most words at the end of the sprint? That's cool. You can and that's what why would we call them word wars and I'd always have a bag of candy or something. Yeah. So you know, and we'd if we got way off track, be like, Okay, guys, it's time for a word war. 15 minutes start writing now. I was just completely blown like having this write ins. Yeah, yeah. And it's just a way to really connect with other riders, other people who, like really get you I'm sure you understand. But unless you're in a room with a bunch of other writers like it, just kind of you don't know what you're missing. So you get there. You're like, Oh, hey, these people are cool to talk with about things that the NSA probably the NSA won't know if I asked this person. Yeah, like I went to a panel at a con about like, that a mortician did about how to like dispose of dead bodies. For you know, I other purposes? Yeah, yeah. Oh yeah. Oh, that's funny. One of the writings that I went to, it was so fun because it was, you know, like food and stuff. So as you're in the right and you just got food and drinks or whatever, but Nana also, though, let me know if this is still going on for you guys but they gave like little swag things like little stickers and pins and whatever stuff. Is that still a part of it? It is. And I don't have my Nano stickers with me actually just got my ml kit in the mail, I think two days ago, and I was super excited. So I was like, Yay, stickers. So the last two years I've actually since we're virtual done a signup form for people who wanted a sticker and I've actually mailed stickers out. Wow. That's dedication. And I was expecting honestly, but I'm totally fine with it. Because I would make when I was in an in person place I would do goodie bags for like the kickoff and put you know, like a pencil and some post it notes or some sort of thing in there with the sticker. And depending on the theme, I think one year it was like a superhero theme. And I got these little superhero things and put in there. And we were a small group, it was maybe for like 10 people that would show up. So it wasn't a huge investment. But I know some of the Emelles. And some of the bigger regions they do like fundraisers and stuff with their rhinos, and they go all out and do all this really cool swag and have their own like stickers for their own region and all kinds of things. You want to be in a bigger city? Yeah. Sometimes I'm like, huh, because I'm probably moving sometime in the next couple years. So I'm kind of scouting out places, and one of the things I'm looking at is their nano region. What do they have? Too small? Like, is this a good region? That's, that's a pretty cool reason to move. Or to that particular place. Yeah. That cracks me up. So if people are online, though, like if they, whether they're COVID conscious still or if they're just more introverted, and they want to do the online versions, how did they get participating in some of those events that are more virtual right now? So it kind of depends on you know, the region for us, we use discord. And we do we have like a, there's a bunch of Sprint bots and stuff, you can add to discord channels where people can run their own sprints, and we'll say, Hey, we're all going to be in the discord from this time to this time, and you come join us. Do they find out about that through the Nano site first, though? Yes, we, at least that's the way we do it. We have a link to the discord and like our Facebook group. And I think that's all this region has. But anything that you have, you can link from the Nano nano website. So we do mainly use discord. We have some participation, like on the Facebook group, but it's kind of hard to run sprints and stuff really in effacement. Really, it maybe like five years ago, you might have been able to but yeah, and there's a lot of writers now doing things on Twitch, the streaming service. And in 2020, a bunch of MLS got together and started a writing weekend 100 hours of writing, and we call it oh how. And so every year since things, it's been really popular, we get on and do 100 consecutive hours of writing streams on Twitch. And that's usually I think this year is the second weekend of November, so people can join in that way. And then a lot of those MLS also host other streams throughout the month. And usually people are fine. Like, oh, you're not my region. It's okay. Come on in. Right. So there's writers here,

come on. Yeah, there's a lot of opportunities now virtually for people who either can't go to write ins because of geographic constrictions or they are COVID conscious or, you know, what have you so yeah, that's really cool. I know when I first started, well, when we first started there, what I didn't feel like there was as much of that for me, it was more Twitter. So like I learned about nano through Twitter. And so I would talk and communicate other people were doing spreads through Twitter. And that was that was a we operated so yeah, it's so interesting to see the way that it's evolved over the years. Yeah, there was a nano chat. I don't know if you ever use the Nano chat that was through the actual Nano. I didn't know it was kind of like an old school chat room. And there was a bot in there named Timmy and he would say random stuff. Love it. Yeah, I was really fond of that chat room for a long time but it kind of the last few years. A lot of people move more towards discord and slack and things like that because so many of us are using it in our daily lives for other things. Yeah, I use both I use Slack for my my like teams for my pas and then I use discord to be able to connect with my son because that's like the list Literally the only place you will actually respond to me is discord. Oh, goodness, children, you gotta love teenagers. So if people want to become a municipal liaison, how did they go about doing that? Then how did you get signed up? Well, mine was kind of just, I went to that new region and the, you know, the guy was kind of stepping down. So in if you are in a region, and you know, someone's going to be stepping down or, you know, even if you're in a region, and they don't necessarily need other ml, ml is are always happy to have minions. Especially if it's a geographic, like, very large geographic area, and you want to host something in your area, as long as you clear it with your ml, they can put it on the calendar and everything for you. And then that way, the next year, if there is, you know, kind of an opening available at MLR, it'd be like, hey, maybe one of my minions will be interested in doing this, because I've already been kind of sort of emailing already. So usually around May, nano puts out a signup sheet, basically an application and it's to gauge how many emails are returning, how many are resigning, and, you know, get the application for people who are interested in becoming a new ml. And usually, I think there's a link on the website, where you can go ahead and sign up to be notified when that happens if it's something you're interested in, and they put out like, if they know someone stepping down, and there's not going to be an ML, they will put out a thing for that region that says, Hey, your region needs an ML, if you're interested, please apply here. So for me with my other two co stepping down this year, I kind of sent out feelers to people who had been pretty active in the discord and throughout the website the last couple of years. And luckily, one of them decided to jump on board. And she's got some amazing ideas. And he's an awesome addition to the team. So I'm super excited to have her helping out this year. That's so yeah, so there's a bunch of different ways to sign up. Well, there's only one way to actually sign up but there's a bunch of different ways to get involved. And if even see if it's something you're interested in by helping out in the current ml because they usually need help or will take help. I know very few emails are gonna be like No, you can't do you know, unless it's just something that's completely out of our you know, code of conduct or something. Right, right. So do MLS also work for camp Nano? Or is it just like the main event? The main events, the biggest thing, but we technically is and all your sort of position, and I do camp stuff, some emails, do more camp stuff than others, I like to try to at least send out an email and say, Hey, guys, camps coming up. If you're interested in participating, we're going to be you know, hanging around the discord and just drop in and say, Hey, so some Emelles are more like November heavy, and some also are super into camp. And it's not. Our rules are changing a little bit as far as how much we need to be involved the rest of the year, because they're looking at adding another like position called a regional steward. That's kind of over like a group of Emelles. It was supposed to happen this year. But some things it's just been crazy. Right? So it really it just really depends on the ML. So some years my camp participation is like, Yes, I'm doing camp and we're gonna do this and other years. I'm like camp what? Already was Yeah, are rolled April and July, April and July. Yeah, I missed the old PAMP cabin website. So you know, just getting a

random cabin with a bunch of people that aren't in your region. I kind of missed that whole layout. But yeah, I still like to do camp to kind of work on edits, or if I'm trying to run with something because it gives me a reason to write during a month. That's not November, because I feel like I just hyper focus in November and the rest of the year. I'm like, Oh, I'm a writer. Do I write right? There, I have this whole like writing thing going on? You know? I completely understand that. That's kind of what happens to me. If I shift my focus, my PA is always on on me to be like, like, why aren't you writing right now? Like, I'm creating a course. Okay, right now, of course. And it's like when you're focused on something else for a little bit. It's like, oh, yeah, trying to get a book together. Yeah, finish that thing. Oh, no. Yeah. And I've been so ingrained in like, academic papers the last few years that it's just kind of like, I don't have the mental energy to put too much other writings. So then it's like November, I can really say, okay, you know, I know I have to write something for class too, but I'm going to work on this fantasy novel this month. Yes. It's my escape for November. Okay. Yeah. Riders. Yeah. Funny. So, how can my audience find like if they want to find you or learn more about becoming a nano municipal liaison? See, I gotta slow down. I say it otherwise I'll screw it up every time. How did they get in contact with you? So I would say right now, because I am kind of redesigning or rebranding my writer stuff. And then I went, the best way is probably through the Nano website, especially if you want to talk to me about nano. So the way to find me on there, the easiest is to look at the Tennessee elsewhere region. And on our regional page, I'll be one of the two people who have profiles. And my username is Murata, Grenada, which, you know, like 12 years ago was my attempt at a fun Clean Spanish name, but it's not quite gram grammatically correct. But I still, it is still the tongue. So that's probably the best way to find me. Of course, you can find me on LinkedIn, which is how we connected. Yeah. So and then I'm always up for emails I can give you you know, my email. I know, it's a little old school. But is it AOL? Not that old school? It is a Gmail address. I do still have a Yahoo address, but I hardly ever use it. Because it's No, it's the.evening.muse@gmail.com. And I totally read and answer emails. So you know, if anyone wants to talk to me about nano, or have a writing buddy for November are any other time or find out more about the other stuff? I do, I'm more than happy to share, you know, my pen name and stuff like that via those channels. So Wonderful. Well, that's amazing. Is there anything else that you would like to tell my audience about nano or anything that we haven't discussed it? I think we've pretty much covered everything, you know, I guess, I always tell my Rimas when they get stuck, or having a hard time, like, you know, just get the words on the page, that's kind of what November's about, because it's put away the editing, you know, shut up that inner editor, you know, write something because, you know, you can't edit a blank page. So if you don't put something on the page, you're never gonna get anywhere. So that's kind of like my mantra for November, um, you know, and just go for it. If you don't have 50,000 words, that's okay. At least you wrote something, anything better than zero. So absolutely, any words is better than zero. And keep in mind to that done is still better than perfect. So keep moving forward. And, you know, practice, you got to practice. I think that's the thing, I was talking to a friend, my friend that was the municipal liaison that dragged me into all this. From Lena, like 12 years ago, I was talking to her yesterday, and I've been looking through my old draft that I wrote in 2011, slash 12, versus the thing I've been working on the last couple years, and I'm like, wow, my writing is completely different. Right. So you know, just practice and stick with it. And that's, you know, kind of what I, what I tell my rhinos and try to instill in them every November, you know, just go for it. Don't worry so much about the 50k. It's great if you win, but just show up and write something. Yeah, I think that's an interesting point that you made to but how your writing changes. It's also I think, why it's so important to like, cut a line in the sand and say, Okay, I'm done with this. Now moving on to the next project, because you could sit in like perpetuum forever editing the same single book over and over and over again. And it would always be evolving, because you are always evolving, right? That's good to just cut it loose, do move on to the next thing and continue to create all

the beautiful new words that are going to come out. It's so much fun. There's trust me, there are so many times where I've looked at my very first novel from 2010 gone. I really should redo that. No, I'm not gonna do that. I'm not gonna do that. Just leave it alone. Yeah. My husband would give me the side if I started bringing the pen down. Once again. You'd be like, What are you doing? Nothing? Nothing here. Probably by. Well, thank you so much for being here. Ashley, I so appreciate it. And I'm so glad that we connected on LinkedIn is such a cool experience. Thanks for having me. I was excited when you were like, Hey, you want to talk about nano, my podcast and when I will talk about nano all day long. Me to do. Well, thank you for being here. Thank you. Welcome, guys. I hope you are as excited about NaNoWriMo. And the idea or prospect of getting involved with some of the more local or even online events that NaNoWriMo does. All thanks to those municipal liaisons or volunteers who are helping to coordinate events for NaNoWriMo. It's just it's one more way of authors being able to connect with other people who are like minded, who are in their tribe who are doing the thing they're doing and can help to support one another. Look, we're writers and writers are often very solo people, we'd like to kind of hurt ourselves into like little spaces and, and get into our big worlds in our heads rather than dealing with a lot of people in the outward world. But when you have that opportunity to really connect with people who are doing the same thing you're doing, there's just this magic that happens, because all of a sudden, it's like, oh, my gosh, people who understand me, people will understand the struggles that I'm going through when it comes to being a writer, or trying to publish and trying to get my books, you know, more seen and more visible or trying to earn more money, all of these things start to become more acceptable, you start to see more pieces of the puzzle where you're going, Oh, you're struggling with that same part of this too. Okay, maybe I'm not so weird. And now all of a sudden, you have things that maybe we're holding you back or making you feel bad. And instead, you can start to feel like this whole process is doable, because it is this whole entire process of writing and publishing and even earning a living from your books is entirely doable. And it all just can stem sometimes from that little hand being held out by a municipal liaison, or someone that is in your local community was helping you to understand things in just a slightly different way. So hopefully, you will head over to NaNoWriMo site to be able to number one, sign up or get your region figured out. Because having that region figured out, it's going to be super helpful for you, like Ashley was talking about, they're active on the Nano site, but they're also active in other places like discord or slack or Twitch. So you can do a little bit of digging and find your people find your people who are next to you who are near you who are capable of speaking your language, because you will be amazed at how much further you can get this now, as it gets started. Now, look, guys, we have less than a week before NaNoWriMo starts. And now's the time to start digging around. Start finding your tribe so that you can get the people on your side who are going to be there to support you and for you to support them. This my friend is just such an incredible opportunity. And one that I hope that you don't miss out on this year. I will make sure that links over to Ashley on NaNoWriMo as well as just NaNoWriMo sights are going to be on the podcast episode show notes page. So if you're interested in getting that information or downloading the transcript of today's podcast episode, head over to authorrevolution.org forward slash 155. And you can get all of the goods right there. Okay, well, my friend. Hopefully this has convinced you that NaNoWriMo is a really, really amazing opportunity for us writers. If you haven't already done it. If you haven't already joined it. What are you waiting for honestly, get involved, become part of this process. You're going to enjoy it and love it as much as I do. Trust me and my friend. That's all I have for you this week. We will talk more about NaNoWriMo I'm sure next week because next week, it's going to be week one and it's kicking off. So in the meantime, I want you to go forth and start your Author revolution.