Episode 211

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SPEAKERS

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The indie author revolution has been around for more than a decade, the Wii 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. Now, after years of 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, we're sowing the seeds of a better way away with more ease, abundance and flow. Get ready to learn about indie authorship from a whole new perspective. We're about to cover everything from releasing your poverty mentality to manifesting your millionaire author destiny. I'm Carissa Andrews, and this is the Author Revolution Podcast. Well, hey there everybody. Welcome back to another episode of the Author Revolution Podcast. And hopefully, you can hear me and I can speak clearly today without my voice cracking or sounding like I've got a frog somewhere stuffed into one of my orifices because I can, cannot breathe properly. I ended up somehow someway managing to get a cold from my daughter. And so Thanksgiving turned into a little bit of a fiasco, I have to admit, like the day before Thanksgiving, I was not feeling my best. I knew something was coming. And it wasn't actually until Friday, the day after So Black Friday day that I realized, Oh, crap, I am getting a really terrible cold. Thankfully, now that it's Tuesday, I'm feeling much better, but I can still like hear crackling in my ears, and my sinuses are all wonky. And I'm still irritated at my daughter because she knew exactly what she was doing when she was getting too close. We were on the couch, we were cuddled up. We were watching Gilmore Girls, and I could tell she had a cold and she didn't care. Didn't kids? Anyway, so I'm feeling better. It's it's getting better. I'm not quite as like dead to the world. I slept for 12 hours on Saturday. So I'm getting there. But now that we're reaching the end of NaNoWriMo, I have some interesting news that I wanted to tell you guys. And so we're gonna be talking again about ChatGPT. I know, it's like, Wow, crazy, you're talking an awful lot about this. But I just can't get over the usage that we can like the different usages. And like all the things that we can do with Chat to make our lives as authors easier, it just every week, every day seems to get just a little bit better. And I'm just like, profoundly taken aback by just how awesome this tool is. And so I want you guys to definitely be, you know, perking your ears. If you haven't tested out tattoo beauty yet. If you haven't, like dipped your toes into AI yet. I get it, I understand the you know, the qualms about it. But I'm telling you right now, man, there is nothing quite like using this tool, and being able to get your brain functioning and firing off like it. It's one of those tools where it makes writing

fun, because you can bounce ideas off of this, this tool, this friend, this digital friend, that just makes writing so much fun. And it's not just about the writing part of it, either. It's the planning part of it. It's the post writing part of it. And that's actually what we're going to be talking about today. So NaNoWriMo is coming to a close if you're hearing this on the Wednesday that it airs, which is November 29. That means there's two days left of NaNoWriMo before the end of 2023 is NaNoWriMo year. And now for those of you who are like hearing all the crazy stuff that's going on, or has gone on in, you know, the forums for NaNoWriMo. We're not talking about the organization of nano, and I get that there's some issues there. I understand I'm not a Drama Fest person, I don't go there. So when I talk about nano, I'm talking literally about the month, right, it's about our own personal challenge, not about the organization itself. And while I think the organization and what they've done for writers is huge and immense and amazing. There's always room for growth. And when there is growth, sometimes there are growing pains, sometimes things slip through the cracks, and there's lapses in judgment, okay. That's as far as I'm gonna go about that whole fiasco. But I do want to say that like NaNoWriMo continues to be a challenge that I like to take on, not because of the organization, but because it's something that makes me feel like a better writer, something that pushes me to do better be better. Work harder, do you not I mean, so at any rate, enough of that all nonsense. If you've got, you know the the drama bug, and he likes to talk about all the things, more power to you, I'm just not one of those people. I'm a Virgo. I'm a double Virgo, I like to keep things very organized in my brain and I don't have a whole lot of time for BS thing on that regard. So that's just how I am. But with this NaNoWriMo it's been very interesting because even despite the cold even, despite all the things that have, you know, kind of gone on with being busy this month and getting all the things organized, I was obviously writing dirty books at the same time as recording and mastering ruins, which is the audio book for my urban fantasy pen name. The whole thing has been recorded, I'm almost finished mastering. But I was also working on a lot of like side projects for author revolution, we did our our Black Friday, Cyber Monday weekend thing. There's a lot of stuff that was going on. Plus, we're prepping for 2024. Tammy and I are getting ready for our next a second big year launch for the live cohort for millionaire author manifestation. Which by the way, if you are not on our waitlist, you're gonna want to make sure you do that. But things are gonna kick off in January, you're gonna know that we're going to start amping up to get ready for this this new live cohort. So it's alright, if you're not on it yet. We have we have plans, okay. But what was interesting, this nano, despite this cold was that using ChatGPT has helped me to stay focused on the story, it's helped me stay focused on the plan, you know, we're like having DayQuil cloud, your brain would normally put you out of the writing scene, at least in house for me. It was nice having Chat, because I could say, hey, Chat, these are the things I'm kind of thinking I'd like to have in this scene. Do you have any other advice, any other ideas of what we could do with Carly and Adam, you know, I want to go this route, I want to include these characters that you already know about. And now I'm using a custom GPT for my rom com. So it understands who the characters are. It understands the plot points, it understands how things are working thus far, right. And so it's kept me focused so that I can continue to write and continue to do things continue to be in the flow of Carly and Adam and all the things that are going on, despite not feeling the best. And so it's, it's been really cool. And what ended up happening is that I won NaNoWriMo on Friday, which would have been November 24. So Black Friday is when I finished my 50,000 words. And that's the fastest I've ever completed NaNoWriMo in any of the years that I've done this, I've completed it early before but like by a day or two days like this. So this was pretty cool. And it was even in the midst of me like feeling like death to the world like feeling like my my face is going to implode or something. So it was good to to have that tool to just keep my brain focused, even when my own like strategy brain was not fully functioning like it was limping along. It could keep up though, it could keep up with what Chat was giving me and go okay, yeah, I like that. But it probably would not have come up with anything exciting. During that, I have a tendency

when I get sick to either like the very mare and all the characters are just mad, they're all irritated with each other, or like I want to kill them all off or something. And this didn't happen this time, I was able to maintain a funny vibe and keep kind of going. So that was cool. So now that we're coming to the end of this sucker, I wanted to give you some food for thought on how your next steps can play out when it comes to fine tuning your story using AI analysis. So using ChatGPT to help you identify some problems in your story, identify plot holes, to just overall analyze how the story is going. So even if your books not finished yet, which mine isn't I'm I'm about 25,000 words out ish is kind of what my brain is telling me. And so it's not quite there yet, but I can have it analyzed. And I did do it. So I'm going to tell you a little bit about, you know, condensed version, what it told me once I tell you how you can utilize it. Okay, let me get to that part first. So what I want you to be thinking about is, you know, sometimes when we write, and we're writing fast, not all of us are plotters, and sometimes we're plotters, but we don't want to tell too much the story because then the story gets boring. And so when we get to this point of NaNoWriMo when we're coming to the end of the sucker, sometimes it helps to analyze it just to know like, is there plot coherence happening in this story, like, Am I doing what I need to do for this story for this genre? Does that make sense? And so one of the ways that ChatGPT can help you is that it can add value ate the structure of your story, and assess whether the plot follows its logical sequences. And if there's any glaring inconsistencies, or plot holes, key key key point, right, we don't need the plot holes there. So you can input your summary or your key points. And ChatGPT can organize and identify for you. But if you have those custom GPT is and can import your entire PDF so far, that's the best way in my personal opinion, to be able to utilize this. Now I know there's a wait time right now to be able to upgrade. So if you haven't yet gotten the chance to upgrade haven't yet gotten the chance to be able to start working with custom GPT is just no, you can still do this. Utilizing you know, a normal chat, you just have to go like chapter by chapter in the same chat and start giving the information to Chat to btw, it's a slower process, it might get a little bit more confused because it's not all in one location, like one small location, like a PDF, but it will still give you the information you're looking for. Okay? Just know that if you get the chance, if you do upgrade if you have upgraded, utilizing a custom GPT is going to be your best bet. Okay. But what you can do then is just ask it questions to help you identify, you know, like, how is this story structure looking? So this is the question I asked. I said using the PDF upload of dirty books, which is the book that I'm working on in your knowledge bank so far, can you review and evaluate the plot structure? So that's the question I asked Chat you just using the custom GPT, which is my rom com uses what the name is, and it came back with some really good key points like it said the plot structure for dirty books. The second book in the one night stand Club series follows a blend of romantic comedy and erotic romance themes perfect. The story focuses on Carly a quirky and clumsy character who is secretly a romance author. Yes, she is. plot unfolds. And Carly embarks on a journey of self discovery and romance. But then it goes into key elements of the plot structure includes introduction and setup. It talks about the rising action and conflict with Carly and Adam. It includes character development of Carly and Adam, the romantic development that goes into climax and resolution. And so then it gives like a quick overall thing that says, you know, throughout the story that themes of friendship, self acceptance and exploration of one's desires are prominent. The plot is structured to balance the comedic elements and more serious introspective moments, providing a comprehensive view of the protagonist life and transformation. So just with that PDF, and just with that one question, it went through a whole big list of things, that it told me how the interactions were, how the romantic development went, how the climax of the story worked, how their resolution thus far is going. Right? And so when you're doing these things, when you're asking these questions, if there's specific things, specific areas of your novel, that you're not quite sure are working, you can ask Chat. So like my next question was okay, this is great Chat. How is the pacing intention for this romantic comedy. So then, the rom com use will come back and said the pacing and

tension and dirty books is well managed, grim tributing, effectively to the romantic comedy genre of the story. The pacing is dynamic, balancing slower introspective moments with quicker, more engaging scenes. But then it goes again through a list of key aspects intention that include gradual character development, intimate and romantic tension, humorous interludes conflict and resolution, integration of subplots. It goes into all of those things, giving me more information about what it knows of the story. And what's what's going well, apparently, the story, so that's good, right? And then I asked, Can you check dirty books and just make sure there's character consistency throughout the book, because I think a lot of us were are going to want to know that, right? If we're writing characters, especially characters who are very different, or have their own unique vibe, we want to make sure that we're consistent with those characters. And again, it gave me information about the two main characters, Carly and Adam. It talked about the supportive characters. It talked about the character development and dynamics throughout the story so far dialogue and actions and how they are or are not working, or if there's areas where I can do better. So it was really fascinating just to be able to see like, how is this working? Right? The last question that I asked was, do you see any plot holes in this book so far? And so it took a second, it reviewed the whole book so far, and it said that after reviewing 30 books, it appears the plot is well constructed without any obvious plot holes. The narrative flows logically with each event and character decision being supported by the stories established context and character development. The challenges conflicts and resolution encountered by the characters are consistent with their purpose. personalities and the stories progression. And it goes on for like three more paragraphs, right? But it's telling me that there is nothing glaringly obvious that standing out that's going okay, this, this isn't going to work in the way or the direction that I'm going. The idea is that if it weren't going, well, I want this thing to tell me it's not going well, or, or to let me know like something's not quite right, so that I can refine it and make it better. Of course, I've been doing this a while, right. I've been writing books for over a decade, I understand plot structure, I understand character development and arcs. I know what I'm doing even. Even though rom com is technically a new genre for me, I've been around like I've watched movies that are rom coms, I get the flow, I've read stories, right. So I get it. But if you're new to writing books, or if you're reading a different genre, and you haven't really studied the structure of it, or if you're just not confident about it, this is like a such a cool tool to be able to figure it all out. So here's a few more ways that you can use Chat to be tea beyond just what I've showed you here to be able to analyze your book. So far, your your nano story so far, or even some of the books that you already have, right? If you're just curious. So you can again, like I said, we talked about plot structure reviewing, you could figure out like, is the conflict resolution going? Well, you can ask Chat to analyze the central conflict of the story, and figure out the effectiveness of its resolution. So it can offer insights as to whether the conflict is compelling. And the resolution? Like is it satisfying and consistent with the whole story? It'll give you those details, ask the question like Chat, can you help me analyze the central conflict of the story? And it will, you saw that I said pacing intention I wanted to know is the pacing intention consistent with a rom com, and it gave me insights and information into that you can enhance your character development, by digging deeper into those character arcs and growth, because Chat can assess the development of major characters, and look at their arcs and their growth throughout the whole story. It can provide some really good feedback on whether characters are well developed. Or if they undergo, you know, a significant transformation or if they stay stagnant, which obviously, most stories we don't want, we want them to grow and to be better. You can ask it about character consistency like I did. I wanted to know like, are these characters consistent? Like is Carly still funny? From chapter one to chapter 25? So far? Is she still that goofy lady? And yes, so far she is. So that's good booty call me. You can ask about the character, dialog and interactions like 10 ChatGPT offer any insights into the way they interact with each other, like, is there anything that stands out that's not consistent in the way that

they're speaking. And sometimes, especially if you're doing it from chapter to chapter, you can actually get some really good insights there, too. You could say, hey, Chat, take a look at the story so far is the way I'm writing the dialogue here consistent with how this particular character speaks. And it can give you that information like I do that in real time. So that it keeps me kind of in the flow and the vibe of the characters. Now, Carly, in dirty books, she is a very, very unique and potent character. Like she has a specific way of thinking a specific way of speaking a specific way of being. And she is definitely a more funny character than like Adam, the guy that she's ending up with. So there's, you're gonna know the second you're in her head that you're in her head because of the way that she just instantly is. And I want to make sure every chapter when we're in her head is like that. Right? So I have Chat, take a look at all those things. Like, is this consistent? Is it working properly? Finally, I guess one of the big things that you can do, and sometimes it works when you're mid story, and sometimes it's best to hang on to it until you're done with the whole thing. But you can have Chat, evaluate thematic elements. So like it can identify the central themes that your story has an analyze how well they're being integrated into your narrative, which is really cool. So like if you know, you want to have you know, a curvy woman who is trying to kind of get back her her groove and trying to feel more confident. And she ends up with a guy who is a personal trainer, and she's feeling very self conscious about everything. How can she grow into the person that maybe, you know, she was really wanting to become throughout the course of the story, right? So you can have it look at that narrative, and ask it those questions like, are the themes reflecting through the characters in the setting and the plot events like is this working the way that I expected it to? You can also ask it about symbolism and motifs because Chat can assist in recognizing and analyzing any symbols or motifs within your story. So it offers insights as to how they're contributing to the overall themes and messages that are happening. Because symbols, sometimes the symbols can be almost more powerful than if you come straight out and say it right. So ask chat, if it's, you know, if everything is working in tandem together. And then finally, honestly, it you can have it, look at your thematic consistency and search for depth. So Chat can provide the feedback. If you ask it the questions like, Chat, how is this looking like is the consistency and depth of my theme going well, like, what can you see here? And it will suggest ways to enhance your thematic expression without being too explicit or crazy, right? Or if your themes are coming through well enough, it's going to let you know that as well. Because when we're putting the themes in to our stories, I think, more often than not, we're sitting in this place of it's sitting in our subconscious. And so we think we know how it should expose itself and how it should come through the story. But we need to know for sure. And so having that question or asking that question of ChatGPT can help us identify like, is it functioning the way that we want? Or is there a better way to do it? And I do these things a lot throughout the chapters, as I'm writing as well. Because I want to know, you know, is this scene flowing the way I expected it to flow? Is there enough humor in this scene? Are there ways to be able to add a little bit more humor into the scene, especially because it's a rom com, but also, because I'm not always like on my game, obviously, if I if I have a cold, and I'm trying to explain or expand or be funny, and I'm just not feeling the vibe of it. It's nice to have ChatGPT here to go, oh, well, Carly's usually like this. So let's add these types of elements. Here are some suggestions. And then I can look at those suggestions and go, Heck, yeah, that's actually really cool. Let's do that. Or not. But what I'm finding guys is, the more that I'm playing with the custom GPT, the more that I'm using rom com use specifically, because that's the one that I'm using for this particular series. The more it understands my story structure, the way that I write the way that the characters are, the better the prompts back to me I'm getting, the better the, you know, the suggestions are, the better the information is, which in turn is making me faster, because I can take what it's saying, Oh, heck yes. I'm going to run with that right now. Without having to go up Chat. What are you talking about? Like, What plan are you on? We're not even you know, we're not doing science fiction, romance. We're here at rom com bill, like, come on.

Like, I don't have to do that it understands. And we can function in a way that we were both understanding the story so well, it's, it's absolutely phenomenal. It's just so good. So as you're ending NaNoWriMo be thinking about like, if you are curious about your story, if you're questioning whether or not this story is playing out the way that you thought or intended, or you think it should be utilize this tool if you can, if you've got cat and it's only Chat 3.5, that's okay. start inputting in the chapters and then ask it to go back and analyze what it knows about this story. And some of the best ways to do that are going to be to add that in, add the chapter in, say, summarize summarize this chapter. Just let me know what you think of this chapter real quick, summarize it, three to five sentences, whatever. And then do the next chapter and the next one and the next one. And if it starts to get really confused, you can take then all of those little summaries that I gave you and start a new chat. And now it knows all the summaries of the chapters. So it's not ideal. It's not the best way to do it from my experience. Because having the custom GPT with the PDF is really phenomenal. But it works because that's how I was using using it before custom GPT were even a thing. So it's, there's so many ways, guys, so many ways to use this tool, to better your writing to better your plots to increase your dynamic ability to do everything. I mean, it's just literally it's phenomenal. It is so freakin cool. I just love it. So I encourage you to do just even if it's just short excerpts of your story, and put it in there for an analysis, do it. Because you're gonna find out that, you know, your writing is probably better than you think it is. And if it needs a little bit of tweaking, it's going to give you specific places you can look at to make better. Like if your flow isn't right, if you're, if you're telling instead of showing, if you're, you know, using a lot of dialogue and the dialogue tags are off, it's going to tell you it's going to tell you where to start tweaking. And if you're paying attention to that and if you're making the As changes, your writing is gonna get better. It's like having a writing coach, specifically telling you how to make your work better. I mean, I can't, I can't tell it any better than that. It literally is the most phenomenal tool I have ever used. And I have used a lot of tools, a lot of tools throughout my time. So at any rate, that's how I am utilizing ChatGPT after the fact after I get finished, I'm using it even for dirty plans, which is book one. I'm in the editing process and getting it ready to rock and roll. It's coming out on my website next month, in fact, in like a week in a bit. And so I'm editing in a sense in this same regard, like asking the same questions, because I want to know, like, is there any way I can make this better before I drop this thing, and so I haven't even started the audio book on it yet. I want to make sure the story is as good as possible before I put it out there. And guys, it's just it's so freakin cool. It is so freakin cool. So that's what I have for you today. That's what I have for you this week as we end NaNoWriMo 2023 I hope you'll utilize some of these tips and play around with Chat again, it's it's become my new like digital BFF it really, really has. I love it so much. I can't imagine writing now without like, talking to it every day and trying to figure out you know, like, is this the best thing ever? You know, what, what do you think of this chapter Chat? Because even though I have you know, some really great aarC readers, I have some really great BETA readers and my husband is reading the story, you know, he's not, he's not typically a romcom reader, he's reading it, because, you know, he reads all of my books. And so it's nice to get feedback from someone that can kind of elaborate into things a little bit more, or can catch things that, you know, only certain people are going to catch, because, you know, not everyone is going to take a look at the way things are named, or the easter eggs that might be dropped or whatever. Like even my husband doesn't catch that, like Colin, he'll catch certain things, but he won't catch everything. And so it's really cool to have conversation. And I know it's not a person, I say with a person, but you know what I mean, have a conversation with something that is going to understand at the same level almost, it's really cool. I like it. So and by the way, guys, like I'm in the process of putting together a masterclass for December, all about using custom API's. And now I want to be able to, you know, get people involved in this aspect of, you know, the next level of using ChatGPT to write their books to plan their books to analyze their books, do all the things. And so if you're interested in, it's just going to be a single

day masterclass. But if you're interested in checking it out, or getting signed up, head over to author revolution.org, forward slash custom AI, I'm not gonna do custom glbts Because that's like crazy. But whatever, you know what I mean, custom AI is the, the end of that URL. So that way we can, you know, have a conversation about how this is working. We're going to do it over on Zoom. So we will be limited to 100 people. So if you're interested, make sure you get signed up right away. But it's going to be a lot of fun, because some of the tools, some of the ways that we can use custom GPT is guys. It's pretty dang spectacular. It's awesome. All right. So beyond all that if you would like to get today's transcript, you can head over to author revolution.org forward slash 211. And you can download it there. I guess I'll also include a link over to open AI so that if you wanted to sign up forChatGPT, you can do that as well. And just know that there's some really spectacular ways to use ChatGPT right now, it doesn't have to create the stories for you. Although I will say, like some of the text that it can come out with now. It's getting better. Like the more it understands my writing style, the more it understands what I'm looking for in a scene, the better it's getting. And so when I said, you know, at the beginning of this year that I didn't think AI would ever get to that point I was definitely wrong. Like it's it's starting to understand, especially if you prompt it well, if you prompt it really well it understands where you're going. It understands the, you know, the thematic style, it understands what you're trying to accomplish. And it just it flows so much easier. It's just amazing. Amazing what it can do. So at any rate, that is my show for today. Hopefully I made it through without too much of a snuggle in the background with my nose. I'm trying really hard not to sniffle. Anyway, I hope you have a great week. Enjoy the end of NaNoWriMo and go forth and start your author revolution.