

Scribbles and Jots

April 2019 Issue 4

April Showers and Shenanigans

A lot of people's first thought about April is April Fool's Day and its good natured practical jokes. What better way to shake off a long winter than with laughter and a healthy dose of the unexpected?

Why not apply the same idea to your creative life? Do something out of the ordinary. Try a new creative outlet. Be spontaneous with your art or craft instead of well planned and cautious. Bravely forge ahead into the silly and strange.

Surprise yourself!

And if the new idea doesn't work out or isn't your new passion? No problem. Chalk it up to experience and move along to the next great plan!

Creativity should never become stale!

Try something new and stretch your abilities every chance you get!



Be creative

When it Rains on your Creative Parade

So you tried that awesome idea you saw on your favorite social media site. "It's so easy!" they said. "You just can't go wrong!" they said. But it wasn't easy and it sure didn't turn out like the picture. Now what? Well, you have a choice. You can either feel let down with yourself and be upset enough to give up or you can laugh it off and see what grows from the experience.

Maybe this "failure" will lead you to a better way to attempt the same idea. Maybe it will lead you to decide to pursue a whole new dream. You will be amazed by how much fuel is contained in a creative attempt that flops.

The most important thing to remember is that creativity is a process, not a destination. That means that abilities and interests should grow and change over time. A lot of that change involves erasers, do-overs, and things that make you cringe when you look at them. These less than stellar creations are not failures. They are fertilizer! Celebrate them as happily as you celebrate the things you show the neighbors!

Most of all, *Enjoy* the process!

Thrive in the *Growth!*

Create something using only:

paint (any kind)

cotton balls

envelopes

Creativity is not a straight line path to perfection.

It is a meandering journey through new territory with lots of stops to enjoy the scenery and no ultimate finish line.

Trick yourself into being brave for 30 seconds. Amazing things will happen.



Do you have a Fertilizer Folder?

(I have TWO!)

As a writer, not everything that goes onto the page actually ends up going anywhere. Sometimes stories stall. Characters just stop "talking" to you. That amazing paragraph that you love so much just doesn't fit in the piece it originally landed in.

Then there are the sentences that show up in the shower or while you're driving to work. They don't necessarily have a purpose RIGHT NOW but that sure doesn't mean they won't later.

All of these things go in my Fertilizer Folders. They are pieces that might not produce fruit of their own but that may one day be rewritten to fit the needs of a future story. They are ideas that didn't quite hatch but that can add depth and detail to other ideas somewhere down the writing road.

My folders are filled with characters looking for a home and scenes waiting for their spotlight. The words held in those files are worth their weight in gold as far as I am concerned.

This is the time of year I usually take a stroll through those folders to see if anything has spent enough time in the incubator to want to come join the world.

If you don't already have a Fertilizer Folder, I highly encourage you to start one! You never know what might grow out of it on the next sunny writing day!

Opinion Time!

paint

food

wood

words

Rough Drafts are playgrounds.

Don't just stand in the corner
and scuff your foot in the
dust.

Play!
You can find the band aids
when you edit!

Prompt:

Every building in
the town was
painted
sunshine yellow.

rite something this cat would not approve of.



It Came from My Brain!!!

Whew! It has been a very energetic few months for me. I don't mean that in the "Let's go jog!" kind of way. No, although honestly it would be really good for my waistline if that sort of mood showed up! What I mean by energetic is that this year has had me hopping to keep up with the ever changing plans here at home. I have had THREE good, logical, and well thought-out plans for my time since 2019 started. Plan A (take a few months to work on my own stuff) died a gruesome death when the hubby and I discussed the lack of work coming in for his business. Plan B (freelancing) was squashed after having to chase a client for money for a month after a project and seeing how little other work I had coming in vs. what it was paying. Plan C (I had a job in Direct Care for three weeks) died nearly as soon as it began since my hubby made the decision to shelf his own business and accept a really good offer from another company that has a pretty big potential for travel.

So, here I am back at square one. Now, I could say that I'm going to embrace Plan A again. Maybe even combine it with a little of Plan B and call it Plan D. I could. Or, since I have no idea what his new job will do to my daily routine (his industry typically requires a lot of travel and our house and property typically requires a lot of attention), I can tuck the weekly planner into a drawer and take this time to go Plan-less into the Future. Since plans can't crash and burn if they don't exist, I think I'm going to listen to the Hints from Above and just go with the flow for a bit. It seems like that's where I'm being led right now and I'm not interested in being poked with the stick again for getting uppity with my opinion of how my schedule should go.

That doesn't mean I'm not keeping up with the commitments I have already agreed to keep up with. It also doesn't mean I'm not embracing new opportunities to create. I'm doing both. I'm just doing them as they come and enjoying a much more flexible way of reaching my own career goals for the next little while. Breaks are good. Embrace them when you can.

For some reason I draw funky-colored patchwork bunnies from time to time. Today was one of those times. Meet "Ros".

