

# Romance BANDITS

ONE BLOG. 17 AUTHORS. ONE OUT-OF-CONTROL ROOSTER.



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## THE BLOG

### Guest Blogger: Daryl Wood Gerber, aka Avery Aames

Posted by [Kate Carlisle](#) Jul 4 2013, 12:05 am

I am so excited to welcome my good friend Daryl Wood Gerber to the Lair today! You might know Daryl by her "other" name – Avery Aames. As Avery Aames, she's the author of the delicious Cheese Shop Mysteries. As Daryl Wood Gerber, she has just launched a fabulous new mystery series, the Cookbook Nook Mysteries. Heroine Jenna Hart owns the Cookbook Nook, a cookbook store. Wouldn't you love to eat and read there???



YOU have a chance to get into this fun, romantic mystery series right at the beginning by rushing out to grab **Final Sentence (A Cookbook Nook Mystery)**, which is brand new in stores this week!

Welcome, Daryl!!!

### It's Not Sexy, but Sometimes You Have to Plot a Mystery

By **Daryl Wood Gerber**

aka Avery Aames

Memory. (Not the song. Not the game). Memory. Brainpower. Good when you have it. Not good when you don't.

What was I saying?

Okay, enough silliness. Memory is one of the most important things I, as a mystery writer, need to employ. I have to make sure I remember whodunit. I have to remember why. I have to remember what the characters look like and where they are at all times. When you watch a movie, don't you often wonder what the bad guy is doing off-screen? When I write a book, I know. The bad guy is planning to thwart the good guy. He is doing everything he can to make sure he



## WHAT'S NEW?



Feb 11 2015

**New Exclusive Excerpt – A Perfect Catch!**



Feb 3 2015

**February exclusive interview (members only): Donna MacMeans**



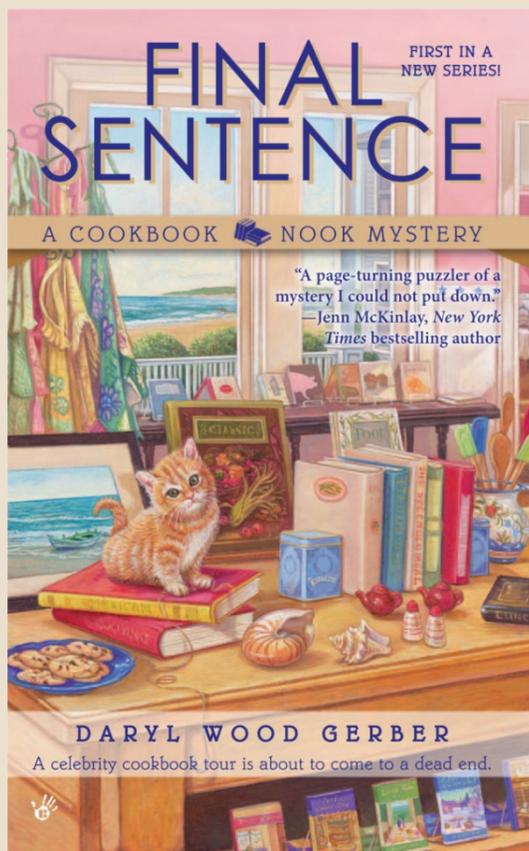
Jan 15 2015

**New Exclusive Excerpt!**

[More "What's New?"](#)

## ARCHIVES

- [August 2015](#)
- [July 2015](#)
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doesn't get caught. He can't sit back and drink a whiskey, although often times a bad guy does when he gets cocky and thinks the good guy would never consider him the suspect. I need to know when and where he does that. A saloon, a bar, at home by himself? I need to know what my protagonist is doing at all times, too. Is she working out the crime or daydreaming? Is she promoting her business or tending to family? Is she picking up clues that will bring the bad guy to justice?

Back to memory. Do I have a good enough memory to keep all of this in my head? Not on a bet. Maybe I did when I was twenty, sure, but now I make charts. For the main story. For the B and C stories.

Because I write culinary mysteries, I even chart the food and cookbooks mentioned in my books. Can you believe it?

Because I'm here on Romance Bandits, I must admit that I also plot out the romance. I know, I know. That's just not sexy.

Romance needs to blossom. It needs to feel natural. Romance

has a mind of its own. True. But I can't simply let whatever happens happen. I need to know that the hero is being proactive. Where is he? What is he doing? Will he want to set a date? He has a life. He works. Is he thinking about Jenna



(the protagonist in my latest book, **FINAL SENTENCE**) at work and while driving? Is he going to take command of the situation or is he going to let some other man slip in and make a move? Is Jenna going to make the move and be a 21st century woman? These things matter. In real life, if we don't watch out, an opportunity can slip away. I don't want that to happen for the characters that I love, so I plan. I plot. Sometimes I even



cajole them into acting perhaps sooner than they might think necessary. In Jenna's case because I KNOW there is someone in the wings. Who, you ask? Oooh, I'll never tell. But Jenna is a catch. So the new man in her life better think ahead and take action. And she'd better be ready!

***Have you ever plotted out something in your life to make it come true? Did you feel like a manipulator or did you feel powerful because you took control? Did you feel sexy?***

Bio:

DARYL WOOD GERBER aka AVERY AAMES pens the Agatha Award-winning, nationally bestselling Cheese Shop Mystery series. As DARYL, she writes A Cookbook Nook Mystery series, featuring a culinary bookshop and café owner.

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The first in the series, FINAL SENTENCE, debuted July 2nd! Daryl's short stories have been nominated for the Agatha, Anthony, and other awards. As an actress, Daryl has appeared in "Murder, She Wrote" and more. Visit Daryl & Avery at [www.darylwoodgerber.com](http://www.darylwoodgerber.com). Check out her recipes on her blog [www.mysteryloverskitchen.com](http://www.mysteryloverskitchen.com) And friend her on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/darylwoodgerber](http://www.facebook.com/darylwoodgerber).



Posted in [Avery Aames](#), [cookbook nook mystery](#), [daryl wood gerber](#), [final sentence](#), [guest blogger](#), [Kate Carlisle](#), [mystery](#)

48 Comments

## Comments

### 48 thoughts on "Guest Blogger: Daryl Wood Gerber, aka Avery Aames"

1



Helen says:

July 4, 2013 at 1:38 am

Is he coming to place?

Have Fun

Helen

1.1



Daryl Wood Gerber says:

July 4, 2013 at 8:53 am

Helen, I would bet he is. 😊

Daryl

1.2



Kate Carlisle says:

July 4, 2013 at 9:39 am

You got 'im, Helen! Now the only question is, how are you going to keep him out of trouble???

1.2.1



Daryl Wood Gerber says:

July 4, 2013 at 10:04 am

Of course she's not. Have fun! Enjoy him. Every ounce of him. 😊

Daryl

1.2.1.1



Helen says:

July 4, 2013 at 4:10 pm

## RECENT COMMENTS

## POST TAGS

12 Bandita Days of Christmas Anna Campbell Anna Sugden Annie West Aunty Cindy explains it all for YOU Australian Authors Bandita Booty Bandit Booty Beth Andrews Caren Crane Cassandra's blogs Cassandra Murray Christie Kelley Christina Brooke Christine Wells Christmas coming attractions contemporary romance contest winner Donna MacMeans guest blogger historical romance interviews Jeanne Adams Joan Kayse Jo Beverley JO Robertson Kate Carlisle Launch Party prizes prize winner quick five Regency romance Romance romance bandits Sons of Sin Susan Sey Suzanne Ferrell Suzanne Welsh T-shirts Tawny Weber travel Uncategorized writer's life writing life

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## THE CALENDAR



The grandkids and Tim Tams will keep  
him well behaved LOL

Have Fun  
Helen

2



Helen says:

July 4, 2013 at 1:45 am

Hi Daryl

Huge congrats on the release and this one sounds very good 😊

I have a terrible short term memory but things from the past I seem to remember very well LOL if I had to write a book I too would have to have a lot jotted down so I wouldn't get things wrong.

I don't think that I have ever plotted something to make it happen I tend to let things just happen and hope that they always turn out for the best

Have Fun  
Helen

Happy 4th July to all

2.1



Daryl Wood Gerber says:

July 4, 2013 at 8:53 am

Helen, I agree, I am a list keeper. I have to write things down now...or else... LOL

Daryl

3



Mary Preston says:

July 4, 2013 at 3:42 am

My memory is pretty good. Where I have trouble is finding that elusive word I want to use.

I'm a planner, a schemer and a plotter. Well, maybe not the scheming part, but I do plan ahead.

3.1



Daryl Wood Gerber says:

July 4, 2013 at 8:54 am

Mary, you're not a schemer? But it's so much fun! 😊

Daryl

4



Barb says:

July 4, 2013 at 7:02 am

I will be up for a cuppa Helen....

I am getting that my memory is growing old lol... I would have to have a lot of notes .... I just go with the flow

4.1



Daryl Wood Gerber says:

July 4, 2013 at 8:55 am

Barb, the problem with a lot of notes is you have to remember where you put them. They're like car keys...

Daryl

5



Hannah Dennison says:

July 4, 2013 at 9:38 am

Actually, I DID imagine a romantic encounter once with a man who I thought was not remotely interested in me. I put myself in his way (not stalked please note!) and one evening my fantasy came true. I realized imagination is a very powerful tool. But ... "be careful what you wish for" — it was ultimately a disaster!

5.1



Daryl Wood Gerber says:

July 4, 2013 at 10:05 am

Hannah, I think we've all had a disaster here or there. I can remember one...names to go unmentioned...that went horribly, horribly wrong. I would NOT want to live that one over again.

Planning for the positive is sometimes a good thing.

Daryl

6



Kate Carlisle says:

July 4, 2013 at 9:41 am

Welcome, Daryl!!! So excited for your new Cookbook Nook series! I loved FINAL SENTENCE, and I know readers are going to adore it, too!

Oh, before I forget, I wanted to let everyone know about our

Facebook contest. Go to either of our Facebook pages to enter for a chance to win free books or a gift card! Just look for the contest tab at the top.

<http://www.facebook.com/darylwoodgerber>

<http://www.facebook.com/katecarlislebooks>

And if you're not on Facebook, you can email jenel (at) jenellooney (dot) com for special instructions.

6.1



*Kate Carlisle* says:

July 4, 2013 at 9:43 am

And <http://www.facebook.com/vickyhillmysteries>

Since we're talking about memory today, it's only appropriate that I, er, forgot that one.

6.1.1



*Daryl Wood Gerber* says:

July 4, 2013 at 10:06 am

Yes, make sure you enter the facebook contest. It's for one week only. Books, \$ and fun! We're taking YOU on a magical mystery tour!

Daryl

7



*Rita Wray* says:

July 4, 2013 at 10:25 am

I have a pretty good memory and if I have a lot of things to remember I make lists.

I'm a planner.

7.1



*Daryl Wood Gerber* says:

July 4, 2013 at 10:39 am

Rita, I think those things go hand in hand. Planners are busy people and know they need lists.

Enjoy being busy.

Daryl

8



*Pamela Hargraves* says:

July 4, 2013 at 11:29 am

I do have a good memory and I am a planner. I have also have plotted to make something come true in my real life and it was a disaster.

8.1



*Daryl Wood Gerber* says:

July 4, 2013 at 11:33 am

Pamela, isn't that interesting. We can plot wish for something, and then...careful what you wish for.

Hugs,

Daryl

9



*Pen Mettert* says:

July 4, 2013 at 12:08 pm

I plot my errands. 😊 other than that I only plot my stories. 😊

9.1



*Kate Carlisle* says:

July 4, 2013 at 1:34 pm

LOL on plotting errands, Pen! I do that, too... I'm easily distracted.

10



*Louisa Cornell* says:

July 4, 2013 at 12:12 pm

Good on you, Helen! Make him behave. Ooh! More mysteries for me to read! Love it!

I do have a great memory for things of absolutely no importance, but let me try to remember where I put my keys... Sigh!

I am a list maker and a note maker. I have a cork board on the back of my back door. I put notes there to remind me of things I need to take with me when I leave or things I need to check.

I have a notebook for lists at work and my crew is so used to it now they reach into my pocket, write something on the list and put it back.

Plotting something? Hmm. Does plotting various, colorful and sundry ways to "get rid" of our new store manager and dispose of his remains count? Hey, it keeps us happy and happy workers are productive workers. 😊

10.1



*Daryl Wood Gerber* says:

July 4, 2013 at 12:25 pm

Oh, Louisa, I love that your coworkers write notes and put them back in your pocket. That's a perfect little tidbit for a mystery. May I use it? Not sure when, but I love it as a character's habit that everyone knows!!!

Have a great day.

Daryl

10.1.1



*Louisa Cornell* says:

July 4, 2013 at 11:42 pm

You absolutely may use it, Daryl! And as I read all of your books when I see it I will laugh out loud and probably show it to my coworkers!

11



*Cassandra* says:

July 4, 2013 at 12:24 pm

Hi Daryl,

Welcome to the lair!

I should own stock in Post-it. I have stickies everywhere. I've even begun to equate forgetting something with the sticky note falling off of the board inside my head and floating into the abyss at the bottom, where most of what I should have remembered lies in the dust of moving too fast.

I make lists. Lots of lists. Sometimes I still can't keep up, but they help a lot.

11.1



*Daryl Wood Gerber* says:

July 4, 2013 at 12:27 pm

Cassandra, thanks for the welcome. I, too, love Post-its. Wow, if only we'd invented those, right???

Daryl

12



*Suzanne Ferrell* says:

July 4, 2013 at 12:49 pm

Hey Daryl! Thanks for having her back, Kate!

Congrats on another great sounding book and series. I have to confess I'm going to wait to start this one...if I don't, I'll be trying out all the recipes and not getting my own writing done! Sigh. And of course I'd have to tweak the recipes...because I even tweak mac & cheese.

So do I plot anything? Life, nope. Everytime I do other than quick trips or conferences, the plans get changed.

Books. Okay, here's what happens. I have a plot lined out, pretty much am sure what's going to happen and BAMMO! a character does something I didn't see coming that blows the whole plot out of the water and the story takes a big left turn.

12.1



*Suzanne Ferrell* says:

July 4, 2013 at 12:53 pm

Oh, forgot to answer the memory question... pun intended! hehehe

I am writing more lists these days. I tend to put things back in certain spots, such as keys, glasses earrings, all the things in my kitchen, cell phone. However, I live with someone who doesn't, bless his heart. So, I am quite practiced at thinking of where things were last, where I saw him or it last, working backwards until I find said item. I think I'm good to go!

12.2



*Kate Carlisle* says:

July 4, 2013 at 10:14 pm

Wait to read, but don't wait to buy, Suzanne! LOL

12.2.1



*Daryl Wood Gerber* says:

July 4, 2013 at 11:22 pm

Thanks, Kate. 😊 The words every author wants to hear.

Daryl

13



*Donna MacMeans* says:

July 4, 2013 at 1:05 pm

Hi Daryl – welcome back to the lair!

When I first started writing I tried my hand at romantic suspense. I got a big white board and plotted out the clues and whatnot with post-it notes – one color for the romantic elements, one for the main suspense, one for revealing the hero's back story, etc. It was a beautiful, colorful, complicated story. After all my plotting I put the board on the floor. The next morning – I had a clean white board and a stack of colorful post-its on the floor. Guess I should have checked out the proximity to the heating ducts LOL 😊

Love the sounds of this series, as will my daughter, the chef. 😊

13.1



*Daryl Wood Gerber* says:

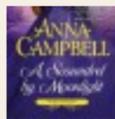
July 4, 2013 at 4:38 pm

Donna, very funny story. How about when post-its fly off due to A/C? Oh, yeah, that's happened. 😊

Thanks for sharing.

Daryl

14



*Anna Campbell* says:

July 4, 2013 at 1:46 pm

Daryl and Kate, what a fun post! Daryl, welcome back to the lair and congratulations on the release of your Cookbook Nook book (great title for a series!). Oh, man, memory! I sometimes find myself singing that Barbara Streisand song – if I can REMEMBER the words. I'm hitting that stage of my life where a once fairly reliable memory is giving up the ghost. I think I need to start learning whole Shakespeare plays to get it back into gear. Well, maybe not!

14.1



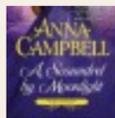
*Daryl Wood Gerber* says:

July 4, 2013 at 4:39 pm

Anna, I know what you mean. There are times I practice learning new songs and new paragraphs of dialogue (having once been an actress) just to keep my mind sharp. It's difficult because there's so much "more" going on in there!!! LOL

Daryl

14.1.1



*Anna Campbell* says:

July 4, 2013 at 4:43 pm

Daryl, I tell myself that too! When I remember to, LOL! I've become really bad with faces and names but I think one of the problems there is that I've met so many people since I was published. I feel awful when I forget – nobody likes to see that blank look in another person's eyes when they come up to you and say hello!

15



*Jeanne Adams* says:

July 4, 2013 at 7:28 pm

Hey there, Avery/Daryl! Welcome back to the Lair! (Or welcome, for your alter ego, for the first time!)

Love your books and I know I'm going to thoroughly enjoy these new ones as well. :>

As to memory, what memory? Ha! I make the absent minded professor look like s/he has a steel-trap mind. Snork!!

However, that said, I do plot things out and follow my goals to a good end. Detours happen, but hey, they usually end up making it all better, stronger, and more fun. Grins. As to sexy...well, I don't usually equate that with my goal-setting, but why not! Ha!

15.1



*Daryl Wood Gerber* says:

July 4, 2013 at 11:23 pm

Jeanne, sexy, why not? Yes, lists can be sexy. Um, put on the lingerie, find the bedroom....Oh, my!

Daryl

16



*catslady* says:

July 4, 2013 at 8:35 pm

Congrats and I have to say what a great cover!

16.1



*Daryl Wood Gerber* says:

July 4, 2013 at 11:24 pm

Catslady, don't you love the cover? Someone asked if that cat was in the book. YES!!!!!!

Daryl

17



*Mozette* says:

July 4, 2013 at 8:54 pm

Memory...hmmm... now, I have a bad memory, but – get this – I have great applied knowledge. This is where I can't write it down, but I can tell you something of great importance to your face from memory. I may have learned it last week, last month or 20 years ago, but I know it – and yet it's impossible for me to write the darned thing down.

Amazing, huh?

But there's people like me out there.

And yeh, I had dosiers upon dosiers of who my characters are all over my office, on disk, and in my head... so I gotta work on one book at a

time. And there's one I'm working on where it takes me an age to finish some chapters, while it'll take only a couple of weeks to finish another... and they'll all be as complex, fun and riveting as each other – with as many plot turns and twists as the last one. So, planning is not on my agenda. What I do is get my characters, stick them into the situation and watch them do what they need to, to get out of it... usually they stare back at me as though to ask: 'Are you kidding? One of us is going to die!' And I reply: 'Well, yes, of course, but which one?' 😊

I have tried plotting but it looks too put together... so throw 'em in and see what happens is best. 😊

17.1



*Kate Carlisle* says:

July 4, 2013 at 10:16 pm

That is fascinating, Mozette! The human brain is a strange and wondrous thing.

17.2



*Daryl Wood Gerber* says:

July 4, 2013 at 11:25 pm

Mozette, I agree that there are days when a chapter simply pours onto the page and others where it is work. It's amazing what the creative brain can do...or are those pesky characters channeling?? LOI

Daryl

18



*Nancy Northcott* says:

July 4, 2013 at 10:16 pm

Daryl, welcome back! Your post is so timely. I'm having to create a series bible because I'm just on the cusp of not being able to remember the plot threads I've spun out.

Lately I have to email myself reminders of what I need to do. \*sigh\*

I've never plotted out a real-life event, other than our wedding. It came off just fine, and we walked out married, which was, after all the main thing.

My books are plotted on a fairly well developed W chart, including the romanian turning points, because only this avoids chaos and many rewrites.

That's a gorgeous cover, and the book sounds great!

18.1



*Daryl Wood Gerber* says:

July 4, 2013 at 11:27 pm

Nancy, yes, a bible really helps for a series. Or a style sheet. Keeping those names in order. Keeping the eye colors in mind. And what about the last names? Oh, my! I just got one wrong and had to change it through book 2 and 3. Ooops! Memory. It's a great thing that needs to be nurtured.

Daryl

19



Elaine Ellen says:

July 4, 2013 at 10:27 pm

I don't know that I have plotted anything to turn out the way I wanted. Maybe my husband would have something different to say about that but I can't really remember anything right now. But then I am getting old. I may have forgotten...

19.1



Daryl Wood Gerber says:

July 4, 2013 at 11:28 pm

Elaine, ha-ha! Husbands have completely different memories than we do. Actually, I've found my sister has a different memory of things in our past, too. It's all about experiences, isn't it?

Hugs,

Daryl

20

*On Tour: Final Sentence with Daryl Wood Gerber | Cozy Mystery Book Tours* says:

July 9, 2013 at 11:41 pm

[...] Book Review July 3, 2013 – Melissa's Mochas, Mysteries & More July 4, 2013 – Romance Bandits July 5, 2013 – Shelley's Book Case July 6, 2013 – Melina's Book Blog July 8, [...]

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