And we’re back, Dear Readers,

Once again I’m coming to you from my corner of The Crazy Book Lady bookstore. If you’re new here, let me introduce myself. My name is Dana Ellington. I am a self-published author, writer’s coach, and CEO (chief everything officer) at Nowata Press Publishing & Consulting.

I’ve partnered with The Crazy Book Lady to bring you information and activities related to all things reading and writing throughout 2023.

Here’s what’s coming this quarter!

# April:

Writing Challenge – Camp NaNoWriMo is on!

Many writers know about NaNoWriMo – National Novel Writing Month, which happens in November. It’s a challenge in which writers of all levels sign up to write a, from scratch, 50 thousand word novel draft in 30 days. What you may not know is that they offer a couple of, what I consider to be, warm-up events called Camp NaNoWriMo. They happen in April and July each year and take a more relaxed approach to writing goals. For example, you can set your own word goal target, work on an existing project so you’re not starting from zero, or not even write at all. You can choose to edit an existing project and skip coming up with a new story altogether.

However you approach the challenge, The Crazy Book Lady Used bookstore and Nowata Press are here to help. Join me at the shop on Tuesdays at 6:00 PM with your project. We’ll be talking all things writing, editing, and storytelling as well having writing sprints to help you reach your daily word count goal.

Check out Camp NaNoWriMo at: <https://nanowrimo.org/what-is-camp-nanowrimo> or <https://nanowrimo.org/> . Then make plans to join me at The Crazy Book Lady Used Bookstore, Tuesdays in April at 6:00 PM.

We’ll gather round the (fake) campfire, (pretend to) eat s’mores, and work on our projects.

# May:

Speaking of Writing…

Nowata Press and The Crazy Book Lady bookstore want to meet your reading and writing goals. With that in mind, there’s another round of the Simply Self-Publishing course and coaching group starting up in June, just in time for you to participate in the July edition of Camp NaNo.

The course is 12 weeks long and by the end of it, you’ll have:

* Complete project outline
* Individual writing schedule
* Opportunity to complete your first, full length (50K) novel draft
* Complete Simply Self-Published guide to use for future projects
* Next steps to publishing
* Outline for Book launch and marketing plan

The course is suitable for ages 16 and up. Registration is open NOW - stop by the book store to sign up. Pricing is as follows:

* Adults, 25 yrs and up: $300
* College Students with valid ID: $150
* Young adults, 16 - 18 yrs with valid school ID: $100
* Children 12 - 15 yrs are free with paid adult.

Our first round opened in March and wraps this month. The second round begins in June. Registration opens May 1st so stay tuned! If you’re even remotely interested in writing a book - fiction or non, graphic novel, or even a movie script, then make plans to join me at The Crazy Lady Bookstore, Thursday evenings beginning in June.

# June

Summertime & the Reading is Easy…

In case you missed it, in January I introduced Reading Bingo to compliment a 2023 Reading Challenge. Click [here](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1mt5RP7na9ReYIHyG3-kZZVow-_FjzOyB/view?usp=share_link) to download a free Reading Bingo board or pick up a copy (while supplies last) at The Crazy Book Lady book store. Download your Bingo board and fill it in as you can with the books you’ve read so far this year.

Summer is the perfect time to grab a cool romance, an edge of your seat thriller, or a stylish mystery to keep you company while you’re out and about, enjoying the day. Perfect pool side, sitting in the lounge at the airport, or between bites of bar-b-que in the back yard, physical books don’t require electricity, won’t break if you drop them, and won’t set off any alarms going through airport security. Not that I’m knocking digital reading devices, just pointing out the pros of having a physical book over an e-reader or your phone. Did I mention how cost effective physical books can be over e-readers? Check out the steals and deals available at The Crazy Book Lady book store. When compared to the cost of an e-reader combined with a digital book subscription or purchase, on top of the hassle of keeping it charged? You’ll definitely come out ahead stocking up on your summer reads at The Crazy Book Lady store.

Once you’ve got your books in hand, get ready to enter your Reading Bingo card for the grand prize drawing at the Nowata Press Publishing & Consulting 15 Year Anniversary celebration being hosted by The Crazy Book Lady Used Book store, July 22nd. The grand prize will be a bundle of books, art, and services donated by the vendors in attendance. More details to come, but in the meantime, be sure you’re using your local library, independent book store (hint, hint), or your current TBR (to be read) stack, to find books as described on the board.

And with that, this edition comes to a close. If you have any questions about the events I’ve mentioned here, feel free to reach out to me, DELLington@NowataPressLLC.com, or (678) 348-6398.

Thank you so much for stopping by. Until next time!

Dana Ellington

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