

Just Write Newsletter ~ Volume 6, Issue 2 ~ February 2017

Just Write: The At-Large Chapter for the League of Utah Writers



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Writing Quotes

“A mind needs books as a sword needs a whetstone, if it is to keep its edge.” – *George R. R. Martin*

“Get it down. Take chances. It may be bad, but it’s the only way you can do anything really good.”
– *William Faulkner*

“The more you read, the less apt you are to make a fool of yourself with your pen or word processor.”
– *Stephen King*

“You can’t edit a blank page.” – *Nora Roberts*

“A successful book is not made of what is in it, but what is left out of it.” – *Mark Twain*

“First, find out what your hero wants, then just follow him.” – *Ray Bradbury*

“Make it dark, make it grim, make it tough, but then, for the love of God, tell a joke.” – *Joss Whedon*

“Every sentence must do one of two things – reveal the character or advance the action.”

– *Kurt Vonnegut*

Chapter Officers

President / Newsletter Editor: Ann Gordon – ann@gordoncomputer.com

Vice President: Mechelle Morrison – mchellemorrison@gmail.com

Critique Group

Just Write hosts two Critique/Review sessions a month. Why don’t you join one of our sessions to see if you find our feedback useful. We think you will! Whether you write stories, novels or poetry, all Just Write members are welcome to participate as often as you like. *Write On!*

New Member

Welcome to our new member Carol Wolf. She lives in lovely Springville. She used to write mostly poetry but has written a novel and is working on two others. She has had some beta readers but would like to share her novel with a critique group. Welcome, Carol. We are glad to have you with us.

Editor Note: **Make a Rejection Chart** – borrowed from a literary agent

Agent Jeff Kleinman advises writers to make a rejection chart. On this chart, list five or six columns across the top titled: No Response, Form Rejection, Personal Rejection, Request for Partial, Request for Full. Down the left side, list agents separated into three tiers: Dream Agents, Okay Agents, and Least Appealing Agents. List three or four agents under each tier.

Now send your pitch, query, story, or MSS to all of them. Give them six to eight weeks to respond and keep track on the chart.

- If you receive no response, you have your answer.
- If you get a form rejection, it means your premise or your writing isn't strong enough.
- If they send a personal note and say they liked it, but still decline, that's a better sign that you're on the right track.
- If they ask for more (first 50 or 100 pages) that's better still.
- If they ask for a full, then the premise is really good.
- If they still reject it, then they didn't fall in love with it, and then the problem is almost ALWAYS that the MAIN CHARACTER is not strong enough. .

Although I'm not much on keeping track of rejections, this chart appeals to me. I'll create one like it when I start marketing my stories and articles.

*Happy writing,
~ Ann*

Conferences, Workshops

- ▶ **Wizards Dayz – from Utah Humanities:** February 24th – 25th, 2017. South Town Exposition Center, www.wizardingDayz.com Ticket information here: https://register.growtix.com/e/wizarding_dayz
- ▶ **Kanab Writers Conference – 3rd Annual Self-Publishing Seminar:** Saturday March 4th, 2017. Price: \$40 in advance, includes lunch; 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Where: Kanab Library, 374 N Main St, Kanab. <http://www.kanabwritersconference.com/2017-self-publishing-seminar/>
- ▶ **LUW – League Spring Conference:** April 8th, 2017 (Saturday). Member price: \$25 (+ 1.62 fee). Time: 11:00am – 6:00pm. Where: SLCC Taylorsville: 4600 S Redwood Road, Taylorsville. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/league-of-utah-writers-spring-conference-2017-tickets-28188634966>
- ▶ **RWA – Utah Chapter (Romance Writers of America): Online Workshops** see: <http://www.utahrwa.com/URWAWorkshopRegistration.html>
 - **Leaping Over Stumbling Blocks.** March 1-31, 2017. Member: \$20; Non-member: \$25.
 - **Finishing Your Novel.** April 1-28, 2017. Member: \$20; Non-member: \$25.
- ▶ **FanX – from SL Comic Con:** March 17-18, 2017. Salt Palace Convention Center, SLC. <http://saltlakecomiccon.com/>

- ▶ **LDS Storymakers Conference:** May 11-13th, 2017. Where: Utah Valley Convention Center. Registration is now open. Schedule: <http://ldstorymakersconference.com/schedule-overview/>
- ▶ **Fyrecon – Refining Your Creative Fyre:** June 8th – 10th, Weber State U – Davis Campus, 2750 University Park Blvd, Layton. This Science Fiction and Fantasy conference offers Master Classes by David Farland and Michael Collings. Also includes Workshops, Teen classes, Special Events, and an Editing Workshop with free editing of 1 to 3 of your pages.
The Fyrecon Mission: FyreCon works to provide intensive classes for creators of science fiction and fantasy works. This conference is VERY affordable at \$40 for three days.
 Home Page: <http://www.fyrecon.com/>
 Registration Page: <http://www.fyrecon.com/registration/>

Writing Contests

- ▶ **Sibyl's Scriptorium: Dragon Comet** (short story), **Odyssey** (poetry), **PhoenixMoon** (graphic novel), **Aether** (illustration). These contests were originally created by the LTUE symposium. Fee: No fees to enter! Current Deadline: March 1, 2017. Read the Rules before entering. Open to both children and adults. <http://sibscript.org/>
- ▶ **Flash Memoir Contest with WriterAdvice:** They are looking for a personal life story of 750 words or less. Winners get cash prizes plus publication. Entry: \$13. Deadline: March 1, 2017. This sounds like fun. <http://www.writeradvice.com/>
- ▶ **Gemini Magazine Short Story Contest:** Entry: \$5. Deadline: March 31, 2017. All finalists published in June issue of Gemini. Five cash prizes. Any subject, style, genre or length. <http://www.gemini-magazine.com/contest.html>
NOTE: On the website you can read many of the past contest winners of both the Short Story and Flash Fiction contests.
- ▶ **LUW – League Writing Contest:** Our annual contest includes Creative Writing, Nonfiction, and Published Books. Historically the deadline is in June. Specifics aren't on the website yet but many League members are already writing and reviewing what they plan to submit (*especially Cache County*). I'll post more information as soon as I have it.

Resources

- ▶ **Top Ten Trends in Publishing Every Author Needs to Know in 2017:** List contains trends that impact **indie authors** the most. <https://www.writtenwordmedia.com/2017/01/04/top-ten-trends-in-publishing-every-author-needs-to-know-in-2017/>
- ▶ **Where to Sell your Poetry: 53 Markets to Submit Formal Verse + 7 Paying Listings:** <https://trishhopkinson.com/2017/01/31/53-markets-to-submit-formal-verse-rhyming-blank-verse-villanelle-sonnet-etc-7-paying-listings/>
- ▶ **How to Write Flash Fiction:** <https://janellehardacre.co.uk/2017/02/18/how-to-write-flash-fiction/>
- ▶ **100 Best First Lines of Novels – Selected by the editors of American Book Review:** <http://www.infoplease.com/ipea/A0934311.html#ixzz2Qeu86DYL>

Publishing Opportunities

- ▶ **Anthology Seeking Horror/Suspense/Thriller Stories - TWO EYES OPEN.** MacKenzie Publishing. Deadline: March 31, 2017. Publication date: August 2017.
<https://mackenziepublishing.wordpress.com/call-for-submissions-adult-horror-anthology/>

- ▶ **Chicken Soup for the Soul:** They have the following book deadlines for this year:

1. Christmas and Holiday Collection / October 31, 2017
2. My Crazy Family! / June 30, 2017
3. My Kind (of) America March 31st, 2017
4. Positively Happy! / May 31, 2017
5. Step Outside Your Comfort Zone / March 31, 2017
6. Stories of Redemption / August 31st, 2017

Example: Stories of Redemption pays \$200 for an accepted story plus ten copies of the book. Story length: Up to 1200 words. <http://www.freedomwithwriting.com/freedom/uncategorized/chicken-soup-for-the-soul-several-deadlines-approaching-11-books/>

- ▶ **ALIBI: Random House digital-only imprint:** This imprint focuses on mystery and thriller fiction titles. More consumers are reading eBooks than ever and they want to collaborate with forward-thinking and up-and-coming authors. No strict word count but they are interested in full-length MSS of 40,000 words or more. <http://www.randomhousebooks.com/alibi/>
- ▶ **The Overlook Press:** This is an independent general-interest publisher, founded in 1971. They publish approximately 100 new books a year, roughly divided between hardcovers and trade paperbacks. The list is eclectic, with areas of strength in fiction, history, biography, drama and design. <http://www.overlookpress.com/contact-us>
- ▶ **POLIS BOOKS:** They're currently acquiring: Mystery, Commercial literary fiction, Thriller, Suspense, Procedural, Traditional crime, Science Fiction, Fantasy, Horror, Supernatural, Urban Fantasy, Romance, Erotica, Women's Fiction, New Adult, Young Adult, Humor/Essays. They are NOT currently acquiring Children's Picture /Coloring books, Graphic novels, Short stories, Novellas, or Religious-based titles. <http://polisbooks.com/submissions/>

Happy writing!

Ann

