

Just Write Newsletter ~ Volume 5, Issue 3 ~ March 2016

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



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Writing Quotes

“The king died and then the queen died is a story. The king died and then the queen died of grief is a plot.” – *E. M. Forster*

“People often say that motivation doesn’t last. Well, neither does bathing. That’s why we recommend it daily.” – *Zig Ziglar*

“You get ideas from daydreaming. You get ideas from being bored. You get ideas all the time. The only difference between writers and other people is we notice when we’re doing it.” – *Neil Gaiman*

“When I think about writers who use fiction as social commentary and to raise social awareness but who are also very popular, I think of Dickens.” – *Jodi Picoult*

“What encourages me and inspires me is when I read a good book. It makes me want to be a better writer.” – *Kimberly Willis Holt*

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Critique Group

The Ides of March – Next Critique/Review Session Starts Mid-Month: Please join us in the next session of our Critique & Review group. We have a great group of determined authors who provide useful feedback for stories and chapters. Let me or Mechelle know if you would like to join us sometime. All Just Write members are welcome.

Mechelle and I like the idea of having fixed dates for our Critique & Review Sessions. We selected the 15th and 30th (or end of month) as the regular dates. That means one of us would send out the Reminder / Invitation on the 15th, send the spreadsheet to interested members by the 20th or 21st, and have the deadline for returning your reviews of member submissions by the end of the month. That would give us advance notification of when we need to have something ready to share. I hope you like this plan. Comments and suggestions are welcome. Thank you.

New Members

Tamara Paxton (now Copley) has joined Just Write. She lives in northeastern Utah; she has published stories and poetry and has won writing awards. Currently she is writing an LDS romance, middle grade fantasies, sci-fi, and two story collections. She joined us in the February critique session. Welcome, Tamara.

Valerie Gardner has recently joined Just Write. She lives in Springville. She writes Fantasy and Fractured Fairytales and is started to write Sci-Fi. She has been writing for many years. One of her books has been traditionally published and she has begun self-publishing too. Her author name is V.J.O. Gardner. <http://www.vjogardner.com/> Welcome Valerie!

Editorial: How Long Does It Take to Write a Novel?

When I first read this blog title I thought of the old non-answerable question: “How long is a piece of string?” Well, a piece of string is as long as it is. And I think that response could equally apply to how long it takes a writer to finish his/her novel. I mostly finished a YA novel 24 years ago yet I’ve still never finished it. Perhaps I never will. I’m the first to admit that’s a ridiculous amount of time to have a manuscript on the back shelf.

Some people swear they can write the first draft of a book in a week while Scott Turow has said that it takes him six months to plot one of his books and another six months to write it. Hence, he produces one book a year. On this subject I found the following articles online and thought you might like to read some of them.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/holly-robinson/how-long-does-a-novel-take_b_5359814.html .

<http://www.writersdigest.com/online-editor/how-long-does-it-take-to-write-a-novel>

<http://www.goodreads.com/topic/show/1248373-how-long-does-it-take-you-to-write-a-book>

<https://www.writingclasses.com/toolbox/ask-writer/how-long-should-it-take-to-write-a-novel>

One of my New Year’s resolutions involves finishing three of my book projects. Sadly, that YA novel on the back shelf isn’t one of them. :)

~Ann

Member Article: Write a Novel in Three Days: Presentation Summary by Stanley Klemetson

At LTUE last month, L.L. Muir (Lesli) gave a presentation on how to write a novel in three days. She credited her method to Michael Moorcock and Lester Dent, but I thought that her description of the process was very good. She uses this process to publish a new book (novella) containing 30,000 to 50,000 words every three weeks.

This process can be divided into two parts: Preparation and Writing.

Preparation:

1. Make lists so that you don't have to do research during the writing. For example:
 - Characters names and descriptions
 - Locations and time periods
 - Events (goals, plots, conflicts) and write a sentence for each scene
 - Weapons, tools, transportation, fuel
 - World building
2. Make a brief structure or frame to hang your story on. This not really a plot. Just a list of scenes you want to have.
3. Divide your story into four sections with six chapters each for a total of 24 chapters. The last chapter of each section should have a killer twist.
4. Each section has a goal that the chapters work toward. The twist sets the goal for the next chapter.

Writing:

1. Determine your words per hour, such as 1,500 words an hour.
2. Divide ultimate goal of 60,000 words by the production rate to determine hours required and then divide by three days.
3. Find a place to write with no interruptions, Internet, or phone. Lesli recommended going to a hotel unless you can get full isolation in your home.
4. Keep a tight schedule for daily word count, waking time, eating, writing, rest and anything else that needs to be done.
6. Write your first draft

To learn more she suggested we visit: <https://benschwensch.wordpress.com/tag/II-muir> and <http://www.wetasphalt.com/content/how-write-book-three-days-lessons-michael-moorcock>

While I have not written a book in as little as three days, I did make use of this method for last year's NaNoWriMo with the preparation I completed in Scrivener. After November 1st, it only took me three weeks to write the requisite 50,000 words and I did that in just two hours per day. Near the end my characters directed more of the actions in my scenes than my outline did, but that was okay.

Thus, I agree with Lesli that for faster writers and shorter books, three days to write a first draft of a novella is doable.

~ *Stanley*

[Ed note: L.L. Muir is a member of Just Write. <http://www.amazon.com/L.L.-Muir/e/B00736A0A4>]

Writing Conferences and Workshops

- ▶ **Author Branding and Marketing by Kristen Lamb:** March 19th in SLC. Free for Utah Romance Writers of America members, \$5 for nonmembers. Sponsored by Utah chapter of RWA. 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Seating limited to 60, so register online at: <http://www.utahrwa.com/URWAGuestPresenterRegistration.html>
- ▶ **LUW Spring Workshop: April 9, 2016. \$20 for LUW members.** SLCC in Taylorsville. I have attended the Spring Workshop many times and always enjoyed it. I hope you can attend. They always provide opportunities to pitch your book. Registration is now open. <http://luwriters.org/>
- ▶ **Las Vegas Writing Conference:** April 28-30. Rates range from \$300 to \$475. I hear good things about this conference, but it is pricey. <http://lasvegaswritersconference.com/>
- ▶ **Mountain West Arts Conference: May 5, 2016.** Prices range from \$75 to \$125. Conference held in the Utah Cultural Celebration Center, West Valley City. See: <https://heritage.utah.gov/arts-and-museums/resources-prof-dev-mwac>
- ▶ **StokerCon Horror Convention: May 12-15.** Held at the Flamingo Hotel, Las Vegas. This year they will host **Horror University**, complete with hands-on writing workshops taught by bestselling and award-winning writers. Special presentations include police procedure, paranormal investigations, and the history of ghosts. *I wish I could go!* <http://stokercon2016.horror.org/>
- ▶ **LUW Conference:** Our annual conference is generally held in September. I understand that this year it will be held in West Valley City. Information will be posted in the League newsletter “The Quill” and on the League website. <http://luwriters.org/>
- ▶ **Colorado Gold Conference – Rocky Mountain Fiction Writers: September 9-11, 2016.** Denver, Colorado. This is their 34th Annual writing conference. They always have a dozen agents and acquisition editors from publishing houses all over the country. Good place to pitch your book. Conference held at Renaissance Hotel, Denver, CO. <http://rmfw.org/conference/>

Online Resources

- ▶ **Story Questionnaire - 100 Questions to ask and answer as you write your story:** <http://thescriptlab.com/screenwriting/story/development/26-story-questionnaire#>
- ▶ **5 Pros and Cons to Consider if Using a Pen Name:** <https://www.chatebooks.com/blog-Writing-a-Book-5-Pros-and-Cons-to-Consider-If-Using-a-Pen-Name>
- ▶ **Why You Should Work with an Editor before Pitching an Agent:** <http://ryanlanz.com/2016/02/16/why-you-should-work-with-an-editor-before-pitching-an-agent/>
- ▶ **28 Resources, Tools and Tips for Self-Publishing Your Next Book:** <http://thewritelife.com/28-resources-tools-and-tips-for-self-publishing/>
- ▶ **90 Free eBook Sites: From Book Marketing Tools website:** You can submit your story to these sites anytime or when you have a “free eBook” promotion on Kindle. What a list of links! <http://bookmarketingtools.com/blog/top-free-ebook-sites/>

- ▶ **Determined to Meet Your Writing Goals? Set Up a Production Schedule:** [I desperately need to develop a writing schedule.] <http://thewritelife.com/meet-writing-goals-production-schedule/>
- ▶ **How to Write a Book Fast - 5 Simple Rules:** Author lists the Five Key understandings for writing faster: <http://www.nownovel.com/blog/how-to-write-a-book-fast/>

Writing Contests

- ▶ **Check it out!** Eight (8) pages of Creative Writing Contests that have NO entry fees – *none, zip, nada*. They are listed on Brian Scott's "Freelance Writing" website: <http://www.freelancewriting.com/creative-writing-contests.php>
- ▶ **Colorado Gold Contest – sponsored by Rocky Mountain Fiction Writers:** Contest opens April 1st and closes March 31st. \$30 Entry Fee for book-length manuscripts. Top submissions in each category are judged by an agent or editor attending the Colorado Gold Conference. Six fiction categories. See the contest page: <http://rmfw.org/contest/>
- ▶ **League of Utah Writers Contest:** Remember that the deadline for our contest is usually June 1st. The information isn't on the website yet, but should be uploaded in April.

Publishing Opportunities

- ▶ **Bindlestiff Press: For Literary Hobos:** They accept Poetry, Fiction, Creative Non-fiction, and Art. They want pieces that tell something crucial about the human conundrum. They acknowledge submissions quickly, but offer no payment. <http://bindlestiffpress.com/submit/>
- ▶ **Quantum Fairy Tales:** Spring issue deadline: April 15th. Online quarterly featuring art, poetry, stories and articles with elements of science fiction, fantasy and the supernatural. 7,000 words or less. Read previous issues on website. Submissions info: <http://quantumfairytales.com/submissions/>
- ▶ **Ragnarok Publications:** Open for submissions for one month, February 20 to March 20. They mostly want fantasy of the dark variety – Mss 60,000 to 120,000 words long. Be sure to read what they DON'T want. <http://www.ragnarokpub.com/#!/submissions/hzewg>
- ▶ **The Courtship of Winds:** They are looking to publish their first issue with poetry, fiction, short dramatic pieces, essays, photography, art, and short stories. Authors retain all rights to their work. <http://www.thecourtshipofwinds.org/#!/info-on-submissions/c1724>
- ▶ **Write Naked:** Looking for guest bloggers. Guest bloggers on Write Naked receive \$50 paid by check. Posts run 450-650 words. If I am particularly impressed with a contributor they may receive \$200 in lieu of standard compensation. <http://writenaked.net/guest-blog-writers/>



*Happy Writing,
Ann*