

Just Write Newsletter ~ Volume 4, Issue 9 ~ September 2015

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

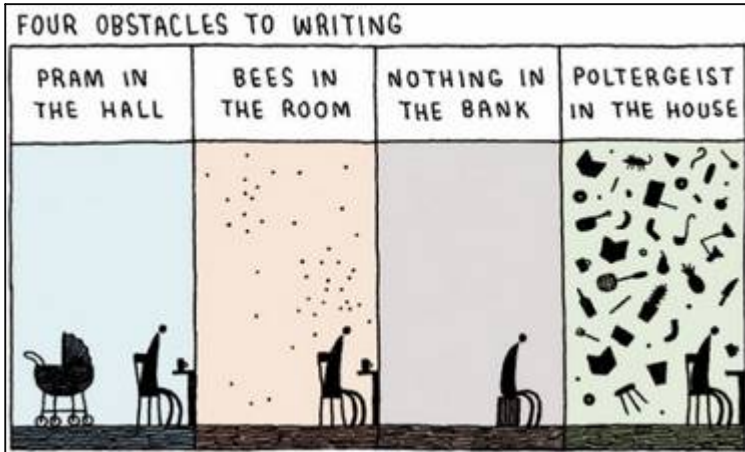


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Writing Quotes

“Throw up into your typewriter every morning. Clean up every noon.”—*Raymond Chandler*

“It is perfectly okay to write garbage – as long as you edit brilliantly.” – *C. J. Cherryh*

“Each sentence must have, at its heart, a little spark of fire, and this, whatever the risk, the novelist must pluck with his own hands from the blaze.” – *Virginia Woolf*

“Be courageous and try to write in a way that scares you a little.” – *Holley Gerth*

“The best way to get approval is to not need it.” – *Hugh MacLeod, Ignore Everybody*

“When you sit down to write, write. Don’t do anything else except go to the bathroom, and only do that if it absolutely cannot be put off.” – *Stephen King*

Chapter Officers

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Welcome

New member brief bio:

In the third grade Brenda Hodnett won a trophy for her story about white unicorns and pink pansies, and ever since then she have been writing...short stories, poems, and volumes of memoirs. In recent years she has focused on writing novels. Brenda is also passionate about music and has performed in many venues including the Disney Concert Hall with the Los Angeles Master Chorale. She holds a

bachelor's degree in music education from CSU- Northridge. She has found the same desire and joy in writing that she did in music. Her first two novels, *Blemished Beauty* (YA love story) and *Sara's War* (a New Adult love story set in WWII), are being published this Fall with Crystal Publishing, LLC.

Brenda lives in Wyoming with her husband and two children. She attended the LUW writer's conference in August and told me she learned a lot! Welcome to our group, Brenda.

Editorials: When Less is More

Last week I discovered *The Harpoon Review*, an online magazine, and I'm majorly impressed with the selections printed in the last issue. Now I'll check out the other issues to see if they are as good.

Good? Try poignant. Stirring. Memorable. Gut-wrenching.

These pieces are short, but they contain all the right words to evoke emotion. In a word, they are Succinct. I pride myself in writing tight, but these authors truly carry it off well. They certainly know how to say more with less.

All this and it's free? Check it out: <http://www.harpoonreview.com/>

New Sub-genre: Dreadpunk

Thanks to Dragon Con we have a new subculture: **Dreadpunk**. This genre is exemplified by the popular series, *Penny Dreadful*. *The Woman in Black* and *Crimson Peak* belong in this subgenre, which is fully immersed in Victorian England where everything is shrouded in fog, with lots of dark shadows, fear, and spooky events. Rather like Gothic film-noir.

Although there are some similarities between Dreadpunk and Steampunk, Steampunk has a more optimistic worldview. Dreadpunk doesn't need to include any steampunk elements like airships or gears. It's mostly just Gothic horror, like *Silent Hill*, *Jerusalem's Lot*, *Rebecca*, and *The Woman in White*.



As I understand it, these are the three laws of Dreadpunk:

1. It is based in horror or dark fantasy, with a particular emphasis on the word "dread": horror by implication or unseen.
2. It is set within or informed by pre- or early-20th century horror—definitely no later than Lovecraft, with Victorian London serving as the default touchstone.
3. It is self-aware and subversive, while still emphasizing classic horror traditions.

Dragon Con's horror track director, Derek Tatum, created the website <http://dreadpunk.com/> to promote the movement.

Ann

Member Article: *Storytelling and Author Marketing* by Edward Massey

I am focused on storytelling as a brand building and author marketing strategy. Here are three themes looking for an audience:

Shared Values: Fiction that shows the influence of prior generations demonstrates shared values. My High Mountain Sheriffs series is built on shared values because three generations founded a county. Each was aware of its role, including the role of all who came before and their expectations of the role to be played by those who come after.

Planning for Major Life Events: All people face two major life events and most face five: birth, marriage, death, success, failure. Multiplied generationally, there may be 10 or 15, but they are the same five, repeated. Not all fiction deals with each life event; some deal only with death and failure. My bet is your story shows how your characters planned for major life events. They may not have done it well – or they may have done it superbly.

Parenting Skills: My favorite, bar none. All fiction includes a parent and a child, whether they are on the page or not. Parenting skills are front and center in my books because my characters are creating a place and a society in which their children will live – and they prepare their children to live in the society they have created. The lack of attention to parenting skills also shows through (“shows” because we are not in the business of making a journalistic statement of opinion). Here’s an example:
Sheriff Simms liked to tell stories. It gave the boy a chance to learn something without being taught so damn much.

Promote Your Writing by Storytelling

This notion of how to promote your writing by storytelling received 1,880,000 Google hits. I’m a novice here, but I think it has broad application. I hope this stimulates your thinking.

Edward

Writing Conferences and Workshops

- ▶ **Local Authors & You: Saturday, November 7.** Viridian Event Center, 8030 South 1825 West, West Jordan, sponsored by Salt Lake County Library Services. “Local Authors & You” is similar to Palooza but with the addition of some mini-writing workshops. The event is open to the public and is scheduled from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm. This is the main link to the Center:
<http://www.slcolibrary.org/gl/glal/eventcenterviridian.htm>

Writing Contests

- ▶ **Twenty-Four Hour Short Story Contest:** One Day, September 19th. Fee: \$5. Writers Weekly sends the topic and word count, then authors have 24 hours to write a short story around that topic. Lots of prizes; please read their FAQs page. <http://24hourshortstorycontest.com/>
- ▶ **Twitter Very Short Story Festival: Submit your 140 character story and have it performed.** Deadline: September 30th – No Entry Fee. Hosted by the Wild Sound Festival. Hear the latest winners read on this site: http://www.wildsoundfestival.com/140_characters.html
- ▶ **Writers of the Future Contest:** Deadline: September 30th – No Entry Fee. This contest is always open with quarterly deadlines. Contest is open to new and amateur writers of science fiction short stories and novelettes. Contest page: <http://www.writersofthefuture.com/enter-writer-contest/> Contest Rules: <http://www.writersofthefuture.com/contest-rules-writers/>
- ▶ **Tom Howard/Margaret Reid Poetry Contest:** Deadline: September 30th – Fee: \$10. Contest’s 13th year. You can submit published or unpublished work. Cash prizes, plus top 12 poems will be published online. <http://winningwriters.com/our-contests/tom-howard-margaret-reid-poetry-contest>

- ▶ **Ruminate Magazine - Spiritual Nonfiction Contest:** Deadline: October 15. Fee: \$15. Must be 5500 words or less. Cash & publication prizes. Includes personal essay, short memoir, literary journalism, etc. <http://www.ruminatemagazine.com/submit/contests/spiritual-nonfiction-prize/>
- ▶ **The Masters Review Fiction Contest:** Deadline: October 31. Fee: \$20. For emerging authors only (have not published a novel). 7000 word limit. <https://mastersreview.com/fall-fiction-contest-vandermeer-2000-publication/>
- ▶ **Dragon Knight e-Magazine Writing Competition:** Deadline: January 15, 2016. Dragon Knight is looking for stories for a new e-Magazine. Formatting, submission guidelines, and word count are listed here: <https://dkchronicles2013.wordpress.com/annual-e-magazine-writing-competition/>

Online Resources for Writers

- ▶ **Psychopaths & the Criminally Insane, by Crime Writers Resource:** <http://www.suecoletta.com/psychopaths-criminally-insane/>
- ▶ **10 Creative Techniques for Writing Character-Specific Dialogue, from Novel Publicity:** <http://www.novelpublicity.com/2011/04/10-creative-techniques-for-writing-character-specific-dialogue/>
- ▶ **7 Ways to Edit Your Own Writing, by K. M. Weiland:** <http://www.helpingwritersbecomeauthors.com/edit-your-own-writing/>
- ▶ **Take a Break from Writer's Block, by Men with Pens:** <http://menwithpens.ca/break-from-writers-block/>
- ▶ **6 Simple Tricks for Building a Strong Writing Habit, by Write to Done:** <http://writetodone.com/writing-habit/>

Publishing Opportunities

- ▶ **Wild Sound Festival:** <http://www.wildsoundfestival.com/> **Full feedback on all entries.** Get your script, novel, short story or poem performed by professional actors. Voted one of the top festivals in the world today. Go here to listen to winning novel & story winners. http://www.wildsound.ca/book_contest.html
 - ✓ **Twitter Very Short Story Festival: Submit your 140 character story and have it performed.** Deadline: September 30th – No Entry Fee. Hosted by the Wild Sound Festival. Hear the latest winners read on this site: http://www.wildsoundfestival.com/140_characters.html
 - ✓ **Short Story Contest:** Deadline: September 25th. Fee: \$45. **FULL FEEDBACK on your SHORT STORY. The winning entries are performed and posted. All entries receive a FREE LOGLINE listing on the website.** http://www.wildsound.ca/short_story_contest.html
 - ✓ **Video Pitch Festival:** Deadline: September 25th. Fee: \$15 or \$25. Submit your logline / pitch (screenplay, novel, essay, short story) and they'll make it into a pitch video. http://www.wildsoundfestival.com/video_pitch_festival.html
 - ✓ **Poetry Contest:** Deadline: September 15th. I'm sorry the deadline for this contest has passed, but you can listen to winning entries here and check back with Wild Sound for the next poetry contest: <http://www.wildsound.ca/poetrycontest.html>

- ▶ **Harpoon Review:** Mentioned earlier in this newsletter. Submission guidelines: <http://www.harpoonreview.com/submissions.html>
- ▶ **Maudlin House [online monthly literary publication].** No fee and No deadline. This fledgling publication has a continuous open call for material. They only hold onto first publication rights for 30 days. They accept flash, poetry, art, video and fiction, looking for “literature that explores the human condition.” Guidelines: <https://maudlinhouse.submittable.com/submit> Read past issues: <http://maudlinhouse.net/>
- ▶ **The Collapsar:** No fee and No deadline. This online magazine took a hiatus and now it’s back. Beginning in a month or two they’ll start publishing weekly or daily (depends on which info release you’re reading), but they are now seeking submissions of poetry, fiction, and nonfiction. You can read past issues on their website. <http://thecollapsar.com/submissions/>
- ▶ **Waypoints [online journal].** Deadline: October 1, 2015. Waypoints is open for submissions of journey-themed poetry, fiction, and art. Looking for writing that embodies a sense of what you’ve encountered on your journey. <http://waypointsmag.com/>
- ▶ **Flash Fiction Online:** They publish fiction from 500 to 1000 words in length. The best ones have strong, interesting characters, plots, and settings. Pays \$60 for first electronic rights. All other rights remain with the author. Guidelines: <http://flashfictiononline.com/main/submission-guidelines/>
- ▶ **Full Moon Publishing:** They publish non-traditional mysteries, books that combine mystery with an element of paranormal, fantasy, or horror. <http://www.sdtooley.com/FullMoonPub.html>



A self portrait ... I really do have all types of paper stacked everywhere.

Happy writing!

~ Ann