

# Just Write Newsletter ~ Volume 5, Issue 10 ~ October 2016

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



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## **Writing Quotes**

“Almost all good writing begins with terrible first efforts. You need to start somewhere.”  
– *Anne Lamott*

“Look back upstream. If you have come to your planned ending and it doesn’t seem to be working, run your eye up the page and the page before that. You may see that your best ending is somewhere in there, that you were finished before you thought you were.” – *John McPhee*

“All characters are based on elements of a writer’s personal experience.” – *Robert Holdstock*

“Many people hear voices when no one is there. Some of them are called ‘mad’ and are shut up in rooms where they stare at the walls all day. Others are called ‘writers’ and they do pretty much the same thing.” – *Ray Bradbury*

“Be ruthless about protecting your writing days.” – *J. K. Rowling*

## **Chapter Officers**

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## **Critique Group**

**Just Write hosts two Critique/Review sessions a month.** We have a nice cadre of determined authors who provide useful feedback for your story or novel chapter. All Just Write members are welcome to participate.

*Write On!*

**Announcement:** In about two weeks you should receive a copy of *The Quill*, the League's newsletter. Look for the names of some of our members under Chapter Chatter. *Yay!*

### **Editor Note: No one does that anymore**

I have always preferred composing by hand, but now that my computer time has been greatly reduced by an eye infection, that's the main way I write. Yesterday I visited my favorite Moab coffeeshop, the Red Rock Bakery, to enjoy a latte, a parmesan bagel, and some time away from my desk. I started to read, which only lasted two minutes when an idea struck me and I started to write.

Since this tourist town is still full of tourists I entered the bakery early to get a seat. Before long I was writing away next to a line of people that ran from the counter to the door. It's interesting how people watch someone who is writing the old-fashioned way. As my fountain pen filled page after page of a steno pad I became aware of people's eyes on my hand and my tablet, interested in what the heck I was doing, some even trying to read it.

Coffeeshops are magnets for people with laptops, so no one pays attention to them. But someone filling lined pages by hand? Now that's an anomaly. A few weeks ago I sat at Pizza Hut, writing away between bites of salad and pizza. After half an hour the waitress came by, watched me for a moment, then said, "No one writes by hand anymore." I agreed with her that it was rare.

People might think I'm too poor to buy a laptop, but I own three of them. I like computers, which are wonderful for email and for entering and storing "stuff." Right now however I'm grateful for knowing cursive and shorthand. {8-}

*Keep writing, however you do it!*  
~Ann



### **Website Review: The Creative Penn**

Joanna Penn lives in England. She is an avid writer, blogger, and podcaster. When I first started following Joanna she had just published her First fiction book. Now look at her. She has written and published a bunch of them! And she's written a slew of non-fiction self-help books too, mostly on writing and publishing. She has some stuff for sale, but her website and blog offer much more that's free for anyone who visits. Her enthusiasm is contagious, which you will notice if you listen to her interviews with other authors. Where does that woman get all her energy?

Take a look at what Joanna has to offer. I think you'll be impressed.  
<http://www.thecreativepenn.com/blog/>

~ Ann

### **Writing Contests**

- ▶ **The Larry Brown Short Story Competition:** Deadline: October 31, 2016. Fee: \$10. *Pithead* announces the first annual Larry Brown Short Story Award. The winning author will receive \$250 and publication in the January 2017 issue of *Pithead Chapel*. Honorable Mentions may also be published. Limit: 4,000 words. <https://pitheadchapel.com/the-larry-brown-short-story-award/>

- ▶ **Boulevard Short Fiction for Emerging Writers:** Deadline: December 31, 2016. Entry fee: \$16 includes a subscription. All entries will be considered for publication and for payment at our regular rates. Limit: 8,000 words. <http://www.boulevardmagazine.org/short-fiction-contest/>

### Resources

- ▶ **Scrivener: A Better Word Processor for Writers:** from The Write Practice: <http://thewritepractice.com/scrivener/>
- ▶ **What to Do with Half-Finished Writing Projects:** from The Write Life: <http://thewritelife.com/how-to-declutter-your-writing-ideas/>
- ▶ **How to Stop Procrastinating – Five Foolproof Methods for Writers:** <http://thewritelife.com/stop-procrastinating-5-foolproof-methods-writers/>
- ▶ **Ten Tips for Proofreading Your Own Work:** from Write to Done: <http://writetodone.com/get-your-eagle-eye-on-10-tips-for-proofreading-your-own-work/>

## Death Star Pumpkin



*Happy Halloween,*

*Ann*