

# Just Write Newsletter ~ Volume 4, Issue 11 ~ November 2015

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



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## **Writing Quotes**

“Writing is not like a painting where you add. It is not what you put on the canvas that the reader sees. Writing is more like a sculpture where you remove, you eliminate in order to make the work visible. Even those pages you remove somehow remain.” – *Elie Wiesel*

“Your story’s strongest questions will keep a reader moving from the beginning of the book to the end.” – *Mary Buckham*

“In fiction, you escape only to run into yourself, again and again.” – *Katie Kitamura*

## **Chapter Officers**

President / Newsletter Editor: ..... Ann Gordon – [ann@gordoncomputer.com](mailto:ann@gordoncomputer.com)

Vice President: ..... Mechelle Morrison – [mechellemorrison@gmail.com](mailto:mechellemorrison@gmail.com)

Column: ..... Edward Massey – [edward@edwardmasseybooks.com](mailto:edward@edwardmasseybooks.com)

## **Editorial: My Adventure Finding Graphics, Videos & Music for Book Trailers**

I’ve made several book trailers recently. I began by creating them for books I’ve coauthored and for other authors I’ve worked with. For me, the hard part wasn’t learning the applications because I’ve been using multimedia applications like PowerPoint, Presenter, Camtasia and Captivate for years.

**The Challenge:** The tough (and immensely time-consuming) part has been securing royalty-free, copyright-free, inexpensive media to include in the video. At a minimum, we need to include graphics and sound in one of these book trailer videos. We can also include a movie snippet or a video loop, as long as it is relevant and we have the rights to it.

I feel like I've wasted my Fall looking for relevant, suitable content for these book trailers, content I could use without being sued. Of a particular problem is finding background music I can use without angering YouTube, who blithely yanks off videos if creators don't satisfy them regarding our right to use the material. Any tune or melody with a muted or questionable provenance is likely to be pulled off. And YouTube isn't the only site touchy about this. So are others, including FaceBook.

**Narration:** For my first book trailer, the author sent me the narration around which he wanted me to build the video. At least for that one I didn't have to worry about securing royalty-free music. But I did need photos of places I've never been. Many of the photos he sent me of the Caribbean were just too small. If I enlarged them to cover a 16 x 9 screen, they looked terrible. So I searched for hours. I found several photos on [commons.wikimedia.org](http://commons.wikimedia.org) that fit with the narration (copyright free/public domain photos) but not enough. At last I gave up on finding the royalty-free photos I needed and purchased a dozen photos from DollarPhotoClub.

**Music:** Next I built a trailer for a book about a Native American female. I coauthored and illustrated this book (and created the book cover) so I already had the suitable graphics. I found commons.wikimedia.org to be my best friend for paintings of Native Americans and the Old West during the 1800s. Anything painted before 1923 is in the public domain (in the US). Well, **not** the painting itself (these still go for \$800,000 or so), but the photo of the painting is in the public domain and free for me to use as long as I name the artist.

Then came the tougher part: finding suitable background music. I didn't have a narration for this one and started the search for suitable royalty-free music that didn't include pianos or electronic instruments. I needed something subtle like flutes and drums. Oh boy, has that been hard to find. I searched InternetArchive, MusOpen, PartnersInRhyme, PublicDomainMusic, and found nothing. The only places that had anything I could use for this trailer (both Jewelbeat and PremiumBeat) wanted from \$40 to \$60 for 60 to 90 seconds of Native American style drums and flute. Oh boy again.



**Conclusion:** Sound effects are easy to find. Even YouTube has an Audio Library of free sound effects and I own a CD with 6000 of them. But suitable background music files? Not so easy to find or to afford. I have turned to Fiverr.com in an effort to get what I need without it costing so much, and several people who claim they can provide background music for a video have turned me down for this project because they only produce piano and synthesizer music. So the saga continues.

[On a brighter note, the graphic above showing Pandora opening the famous box is in the public domain because it is so old. I found it on this cool website: <http://www.reusableart.com/> This and a number of other mythology-related drawings were done by Walter Crane (1845-1915) for inclusion in the 1892 publication *Wonder Book for Girls & Boys* by Nathaniel Hawthorne.]

**If you need Royalty-free music/audio tracks, some are available here on YouTube:**  
<http://nofilmschool.com/2015/08/youtube-audio-library-adds-1000-royalty-free-song-music-track>

~ Ann

**Member Article: Writing and Depression** by Edward Massey

Over the summer I noticed my productivity had plummeted. I began to wonder what was attacking my ability to do all the tasks I set out to do when I decided to devote myself to writing. These included: write every day, work enough for five days a week to pay the mortgage and meet family obligations, work to build my brand, and work to find an agent, a publisher, and an audience.

Notice that after I listed “write” in my to-dos, every task started with “work.” I could, can, and do write every day, but somehow the chemistry between that joyful use of two to four hours and the work resulted in boring, dull, and flaccid writing as companion to meeting few of my goals. So I decided to look into it.

Guess what...many people have a lot to say about writing and depression; I could not do them justice except to point out three links:

1. My very favorite, Elizabeth Moon, Moonscape, published in 1998: <http://www.elizabethmoon.com/writing-depression.html>
2. Some explanation and some famous examples: <http://www.everydayhealth.com/depression/why-writers-are-prone-to-depression-6709.aspx>
3. A deeper look at one of the most famous examples, J.K. Rowling: <http://theinnerwriter.com/39/jk-rowling-on-writing-and-depression/>

The search string for “writing and depression” returned many links. More than half of the articles seem to deal with writing as an antidote or therapy for depression. Great! I hope that is true. Still, my concern is to explore what affects my ability, creativity, and productivity in my writing endeavors. No solutions yet, but I am still writing every day.

~ Edward

**Writing Conferences and Workshops**

- ▶ **LTUE – Life, the Universe, and Everything: February 11-13, 2016.** Provo Marriott Hotel & Conference Center. LTUE is a three-day academic symposium on all aspects of science fiction and fantasy. Most importantly the symposium (which began at BYU) is a gathering place for fans and authors to hang out and share their love of all things amazing, obscure, and not-quite-real. Next year’s events are listed here: <http://ltue.net/events/> They won’t have the schedule finalized until December 1st. Frequently asked questions here: <http://ltue.net/faqs/>

**Online Resources for Writers**

- ▶ **43 Words You Should Cut From Your Writing Immediately:** <http://dianaurban.com/words-you-should-cut-from-your-writing-immediately>
- ▶ **10 Tips to Help Writers Stay Focused [Good for NaNoWriMo writers]:** <http://blog.bookbaby.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/10-Tips-for-Writers.png>
- ▶ **9 Ways to Trick Yourself into Writing a Novel:** <http://mashable.com/2015/11/09/writing-tricks/>
- ▶ **8 Quotes to Combat Writer’s Block:** <http://writerscircle.com/quotes-to-combat-writers-block/>

- ▶ **5 Tips for Crafting a memorable Book Description - Writing good jacket copy:**  
<http://blog.bookbaby.com/2015/07/5-tips-crafting-memorable-book-description/>
- ▶ **How to Write a Best-selling Fantasy Novel:** [Note: This is hilarious.]  
<http://members.ozemail.com.au/~imcfadyen/fantasy.html>
- ▶ **Motivation for Creative People - Interview with Mark McGuinness by Joanna Penn:**  
<http://www.thecreativepenn.com/2015/11/16/creative-motivation/>
- ▶ **Why the Business Side of Writing Matters:**  
<http://anindieadventure.blogspot.com/2015/11/why-business-side-of-writing-matters-by.html>

## Writing Contests

- ▶ **The Masters Review New Voices Category:** This is open year round to new & emerging authors who have not published a novel. They pay well and don't charge submission fees, but they get many submissions and are highly selective. Up to 5,000 words. <http://mastersreview.com/new-voices/>
- ▶ **Redrock Writers & Dixie Poets: Chaparral Poetry Forum** (St George, Utah): Deadline: December 1. Fee: \$3 per poem / 6 poems for \$18. Four entry categories. See Guidelines here: [http://utahpoets.com/contests/2016/Chaparral\\_Poetry\\_Forum\\_Contest\\_2016.pdf](http://utahpoets.com/contests/2016/Chaparral_Poetry_Forum_Contest_2016.pdf)
- ▶ **Utah State Poetry Society, 2016 Contest:** Deadline: February 1, 2016. Fee: \$10. This contest is supported by the Utah Division of Arts & Museums, The Nat'l Endowment for the Arts, and others. There are 35 categories – can you believe it? You don't have to be a member of USPS to enter the contest. [Note: I found this explanation page confusing, but read it and see what you make of the rules. It would be cool to win or place in this local contest.] [http://utahpoets.com/contests/2016/UTSPS\\_Contest\\_Rules\\_2016.pdf](http://utahpoets.com/contests/2016/UTSPS_Contest_Rules_2016.pdf)
- ▶ **Wergle Flomp Humor Poetry Contest, from Winning Writers:** Deadline: April 1, 2016. No Fee. This contest opened August 15, 2015, so it's open for a very long time & will be competitive. Check it out: <https://winningwriters.com/our-contests/wergle-flomp-humor-poetry-contest-free>
- ▶ **LTUE Writing & Illustration Contests:** Deadline: March 1, 2016. **Sibyl's Scriptorium** includes Aether Illustration Contest, DragonComet Short Story Contest, Odyssey Poetry Contest, and PhoenixMoon Graphic Novel Contest. See: <http://sibscript.org/>

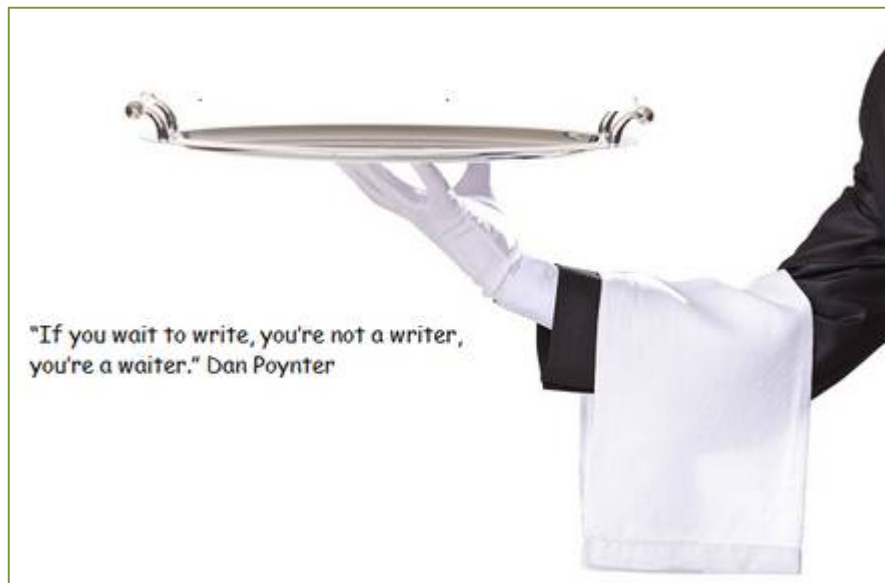
*This is different...a Round Robin Short Story Challenge-->*

- ▶ **10th Annual Short Story Challenge by NYC Midnight:** This writing challenge consists of three rounds of competition. The 1st round is in January, second round is in March, and third round is in April. Writers are assigned a genre, subject and character assignment. Winners of the first round compete in the next round and so forth. Every writer receives feedback from the judges for the stories they submit. <http://www.nycmidnight.com/Competitions/SSC/Challenge.htm>

## Publishing Opportunities

- ▶ **Respectable Horror: Published by Coffintree Hill.** Deadline: December 31, 2015. This British publication wants “tales of civilised, gentle horror, cold, calculating and bloodless; spinechillers rather than slashers, enervating instead of eviscerating.” 4000 to 8000 words. Pays 10 £ <https://coffintreehill.wordpress.com/2015/11/11/taking-submissions-respectable-horror/>

- ▶ **Icarus Down Review: Accepts novel-length fiction and everything else.** If your work is accepted for publication, it will be compiled into an eBook, available only through subscription. All accepted contributors will receive a one-year subscription. Submission guidelines here: <http://icarusdownreview.com/submit/submission-guidelines/>
- ▶ **SmokeLong Quarterly – Online Literary Magazine Dedicated to Flash Fiction:** <http://www.smokelong.com/2016-kathy-fish-fellowship/>
- ▶ **The Courtship of Winds:** They are looking to publish their first issue. They will include 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>
- ▶ **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/>
- ▶ **Boulevard Short Fiction Contest:** Deadline: December 31. Fee: \$15. Cash and publication to the winner. 8,000 words or less. <http://www.boulevardmagazine.org/short-fiction-contest>
- ▶ **Words and Brushes:** Deadline: December 1, 2015. Write a short story (2,000 to 5,000 words) around one of the paintings in their image gallery. They want to create a book that's a collaborative work between writers and artists. [http://www.wordsandbrushes.com/#instruction/component\\_14104](http://www.wordsandbrushes.com/#instruction/component_14104)
- ▶ **17 US Children's Book Publishers Accepting Mss Directly from Writers:** <http://publishedtodeath.blogspot.com/2014/05/17-us-childrens-book-publishers.html>
- ▶ **Gemini Poetry Open:** Deadline: January 2, 2016. Fee: \$5 (for up to three poems). Cash prizes plus publication for finalists. Any subject, any form. <http://www.gemini-magazine.com/poetryopen.html>



**Happy Thanksgiving!**

~ Ann