

Just Write Newsletter ~ Volume 4, Issue 12 ~ December 2015

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



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Writing Quotes

“Inspiration exists, but it has to find you working.”
– *Picasso*

“Read a thousand books, and your words will flow like a river.” – *Lisa See*

“Make your skin as thick as you are able to, for your career. Keep it as thin as you can tolerate, for your art.” – *Robin Black*

“I believe the first draft of a book – even a long one – should take no more than three months...Any longer and, for me at least, the story begins to take on an odd foreign feel, like a dispatch from the Romanian Department of Public Affairs, or something broadcast on high-band shortwave during a period of severe sunspot activity.” – *Stephen King*

“Writers don’t just create pages in a novel, but depth to worlds that become a safe haven for those who wish to escape the reality of their own.” – *Mihaila*

“Even prisoners can escape if they have books.” – *Michelle Moran*

“More people are leaving TV behind to read my books than ever before. In the last year alone I gained three new readers. So I’d like to take a moment and say thanks to mom, dad, and the kidnap victim I keep chained in the basement.” – *Jarod Kintz*

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Editorial: Short Stories

There is quite the market for short stories. The challenge is for the writer to figure out what the periodical or anthology calling for stories actually wants to receive in the submissions. Publishers and contest personnel may or may not provide a theme – but it’s easier for me when they do. This contest doesn’t.

I just learned about “The 24th Annual *Austin Chronicle* Short Story Contest.” I read the rules and regulations and not only *don’t* I see a theme, I don’t see a submission fee. They will not take electronic submissions, which is interesting since most places won’t take snail mail submissions. Still, that’s what they want. They say the contest is open to Texans and non-Texans alike – which is good.

I’ve written about this contest to point out the **awesome resource available on their website**. They have published the winning stories for the past 23 years of the contest and we can read them for free by clicking on the links at the bottom of the contest webpage. That’s mighty generous of them.

So if you have an interest in short stories that contain 2500 words or less, check out this site. My announcement may reach you too late to enter the contest this year, but at least you can read the stories the *Austin Chronicle* selected as winners in previous years.

<http://www.austinchronicle.com/short-story-contest/>

Happy holiday reading, *Ann*

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/>

Writing Contests

- ▶ **Neoverse Short Story Writing Competition:** Deadline: December 20. 1st prize \$2,000. 2nd prize \$600. 3rd prize \$200. 4th-10th prizes \$100. Entries should be between 1,000 and 5,000 words. They can be from any literary genre (History, Fantasy, Young Adult, Crime, Science Fiction, etc), but entries must be appropriate for reading and viewing by the general public. Welcome to authors from the U.S. and Canada. <http://www.neoglyphic.com/neoverse-writing-competition>
- ▶ **Hourglass Contest:** Deadline: December 31. Fee: \$8. Short story, essay or poem. Prize money and publication. Winning entries will be published in Hourglass Literary Magazine. <http://hourglassonline.org/contest/>
- ▶ **Genii Awards:** Deadline: December 31, 2015. NO ENTRY FEE. Nonfiction articles that describe family or local history and capture a family experience or the character of a locality; or Nonfiction character sketches or memoirs that give a sense of an individual’s character and personality. Categories are 1,000 to 2,000 words and under 1,000 words. Entries may be published or unpublished. Top cash prize \$200 with smaller runner-up prices. <http://www.scgsgenealogy.com/geneii/rules.html>

- ▶ **Gover Story Prize:** Deadline: December 31, 2015. NO ENTRY FEE. Best New Writing accepts unpublished fiction and creative nonfiction under 10,000 words for publication and consideration for the Gover Story Prize (\$250). The story must be new and unpublished, including online publication. Submissions are read quarterly following the last day of March, June, September, and December. <https://bestnewwriting.submittable.com/submit/3708>
- ▶ **W. B. Yeats Poetry Competition:** Deadline: February 1, 2016. Entry fee: \$10. First prize \$500, second \$250, honorable mentions. Unpublished poems in English up to 60 lines on any subject. Winners and honorable mentions receive 2-year Yeats Society membership and are honored at a ceremony in New York. Authors retain rights, but permit the Society to publish winning entries. <http://yeatssociety.org/awards.html>
- ▶ **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. http://utahpoets.com/contests/2016/UTSPS_Contest_Rules_2016.pdf
- ▶ **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/>

Publishing Opportunities

- ▶ **Chicken Soup – The Power of Gratitude.** Deadline: **December 15, 2015.** Stories and poems about how you used the power of **gratitude** to change your life, how you count your blessings, and how you give thanks for the good things. If your story is chosen, you'll be published and your bio will be printed in the book if you want. You will receive a check for \$200 and 10 copies of the book. You will retain the copyright for your story. <http://www.chickensoup.com>
- ▶ **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>
- ▶ **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>
- ▶ **Write Naked:** Looking for guest bloggers. Guest blogging is a great way to bring exposure to your own blog, book, or writing career. 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/>



Thank you for being a member of Just Write.

If you would like to see anything specific in our newsletters, please let me know.

Season's Greetings and Happy New Year!

And happy writing too, Ann