

NightScripts



September 2023

Connie Palmer Dodson, Editor

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Writing Prompt:

Does this scene inspire a story for you?

Write a short story of 1000 words or less and get it to me by September 30, 2023. I'll print my favorite in the September issue.

One entry per member.

You can also just use the image to spark a scene or a story.

If you submit it to me don't forget to title your story. Put Writing Prompt in the subject line and submit it to: editor@tulsanightwriters.org



WRITE ON

Look How We've Grown

By our President, Merle Davenport



Over the last two years, Tulsa NightWriters has experienced tremendous growth. With over 140 members, we have had to re-think how to best serve our members. The following are improvements that are taking place.

1. Affiliation with OSU – Thanks to the Center for Poets and Writers, <https://tulsa.okstate.edu/poets-writers/> we have been able to meet in an outstanding facility on the Tulsa Campus of OSU. It has been an awesome opportunity to combine our resources with theirs. We have promoted each other's events on our websites and with our attendance. It is one of the main reasons we have seen such growth.

2. 501c3 Status – Until this year, we were listed as an Oklahoma “not for profit” organization. Now we are a 501c3 nonprofit. The main reason for making the change was to have access to grants and funding streams that will help us offer more benefits and activities for our members.

3. Updated Website – Thanks to our Communications Director, our website looks more professional than ever. It is user friendly and packed with great information including articles, club news, contests, conferences, and much more. Find it [Here](#)

4. Paypal, etc. – We have introduced electronic payment methods including Paypal. In this new computer age, it was necessary to upgrade our ability to receive payments electronically as well as by traditional methods such as cash or check.

5. Upgraded Craft of Writing Conference – For several years, we have offered a fall conference with seminars for Tulsa area writers. This year, it will be held on October 21 at the OSU campus. For the cost of \$50 for members, there will be an outstanding keynote speaker, great break-out sessions, intriguing conversations with

other writers, a pitch room for you to land publication of your finest work, and tables for you to visit with authors and pick up autographed copies of their books. In addition, lunch will be provided for all attendees. See the website for more details, click [Here](#).

6. Writer Workshops – So far, we have held two workshops for writers. We hope to offer many more in the future. Response from attendees has been positive, so we know that they have been a great resource for our members.

7. Expansion of the TNW Board – Addressing all the needs of our members means that we will need more people to handle the increase in responsibility. Currently, there are 6 positions, President, Vice President, Treasurer, Newsletter, Communications, and Hospitality.

The new positions will be:

Recruitment – This person will maintain the membership list, coordinate critique groups, encourage member participation in activities, and organize membership drives.

Fund-raising – This person will actively seek out grants and other sources of funding, pursue partnerships with donors, and look for other sources of funding for TNW activities.

Craft of Writing Conference Coordinator – This person will assemble a team to organize the annual fall conference. The team will create a theme, secure a venue, and develop the program for the conference.

Although there is much more going on at TNW, this should give you an idea of the great opportunities available for our membership. We encourage everyone to work with us to make this an even better club than it is now. If you would like to help in some way, feel free to contact me or any other Board Member.

THE WRITE TOUCH

SCENE STRUCTURE

By our Vice President, Kathryn Helstrom



Rules, rules, rules. All the super successful writers warn against following the rules. That's easy for them because they have so much experience that they can create a bestselling novel out of a fish in the sea. We novices must operate in a little more structured environment,

like maybe a swimming pool? Give me four corners, a shallow end, a deep end, and some floaties. When I've mastered that, then I'll venture onto the sea.

One floatie that I need is learning how to write a scene. The scene is the basic unit of a story, right? If I understand how to frame a scene, then another one, and another one, I'll get to the end of my story. So what do the masters say about writing a scene?

Every scene needs two parts: The action and the sequel. There must be conflict (action) in the story, but there must also be the characters' reactions (sequel) to that conflict. Without the reaction, it is just a series of events, with no emotion other than the immediate feelings during the conflict. As in real life, the characters have to process what just happened in the conflict and decide what to do next.

Part One: Action

1. The Goal of the scene is that the character wants to have something, do something, or be something. The protagonist, antagonist, and each main character must want something. Their goal must be a reflection of your overall story goal, only in a smaller unit. This is where the character takes a step toward achieving the story goal.

2. The Conflict is the obstacle preventing your character from reaching the scene goal. It can be a dramatic battle scene or an awkward dialog with a desired lover. It must be a result of a previous scene, which is set up in the Sequel, discussed below. The conflicts are the links in the chain that make up the total plot. Some are big and some are small. This is pacing your story. In a thriller, the links keep getting bigger and bigger. In a love story, the conflicts may rise and fall like a rollercoaster.

3. The Setback is the resolution to the Conflict, and must be at least an insufficient resolution, and could be an outright disaster. Plot twists often occur here. The setback is what sets up the second part of the scene.

Part Two: Sequel

1. The Reaction is your character(s) processing what just happened. Emotions, demonstrating character strengths and flaws, are exhibited here. This is the counterweight to the action. The internal and subjective feelings must follow a specific order: Instinctual/primal feelings, followed by physical reaction, followed by rational action or speech. You may skip one or two of these reactions, but they must be in this order. For example, a woman spots her stalker at the grocery store. Her first reaction is her heart jumping up to her throat and her feet freezing to the floor (instinctual/primal). Her next reaction is to lower her head, turn around, and then slink down another aisle (physical). As she is walking down the aisle, she figures out a way to get out of the store without him seeing her. Or, maybe she decides to grab a store clerk and ask for the manager to help (rational). Skipping one of these reactions is OK, but she can't be rationalizing before her heart jumps into her throat—the reactions must follow a set pattern. (Continued on page 5)



With Keynote Speaker

Bill Bernhardt

Bringing Light to the Darkness: Why We Write.

Saturday, October 21st
at OSU Tulsa - Center for Poets & Writers
9:00 am – 5:00 pm

\$50 TNW Members & Students

\$70 Non-Members

We are excited our 7th Annual Craft of Writing Conference will be held at the OSU Center for Poets & Writers, through their generous partnership!

With a wonderful roster of speakers, this event is a great opportunity for YOU to advance your craft, and we hope you join us!

Gain experience on vivid imagery, villains and the criminal mind. Learn about point of view, pacing, editing, poetry, how to write a life story, and how great stories take guts. There are even opportunities to pitch your story to publishers and agents. If you are on a writing journey you won't want to miss this conference.

[Register Here](#)

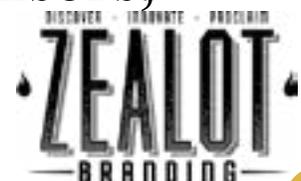
Many thanks to our current sponsors,



Plottr



**CENTER FOR
POETS AND WRITERS**
at OSU-Tulsa



Welcome Wagon

Give a big Howdy to our new members.

Daphney Talley, Tulsa

Cat Stapleton, Tulsa

Cecilia Lopez, Broken Arrow

Tammy Adams, Collinsville

Linda Hollis, Tulsa

Tammy Parra, Tulsa

Jordan Dodge, Tulsa

Dorothy Cady, Edmond



(Continued from Page 3)

2. The Dilemma is the new problem your characters face. After the initial emotional reaction, the intellect kicks in and the new problem (setback) is examined. "What do I do now?" becomes a new goal for the next scene. Sometimes it will be a vague idea, sometimes it will be a carefully devised plan, depending on the extent of the setback and the development of the characters. Often it is analyzed with other characters, perhaps in the store office, in the general's battlefield tent, or maybe in the bedroom.

3. The Decision is the risky plan the character sets down as the next step to move

the story forward. She has a Goal now, which is the beginning of the next scene's Action and Conflict. Any of these six parts may be a full chapter or more, or just a line or two. The Sequel's reaction and dilemma could be scattered about the next couple of chapters. As Les Edgerton said, "Once you know how to construct scenes [Action] and their sequels you've mastered stories." This little article only provides the outline of scene structure theory, like the swim instructor might tell his students before they go into the pool the first time. There is much more to learn. Read books. Listen to podcasts. A writer's learning journey is never ending.

"Either write something worth reading
or do something worth writing."
-- Benjamin Franklin

COVER PROMPT WINNER

THE ALTER

BY JAMES R. SYBRANT

"It's a shame you have to sell this beautiful place," Mr. Alton said as he looked around at the stained-glass windows of the old church.

"Since the new church was built attendance here has fallen to only a handful of parishioners. For a little while the tithing from the new building kept us going, but the number of members there have also fallen, and now we can't keep up with the bills." Pastor McKenna looked around with fond memories before sadness filled his eyes.

"Are you sure you have to sell? Because this will likely end up being demolished and condos will take its place."

"I have no choice," he admitted. "As an independent church we have no outside support."

"Well, as old as this building is, you might be able to have it declared a historic sight."

"I've already looked into that, and nothing beyond a bank robber hiding here in the 1800s would make it worthy of consideration."

"A bank robber? That sounds exciting."

"It really wasn't since he was a nobody. Still, they never did find the gold he'd taken."

"They couldn't force him to tell them where he'd hidden it?"

"Unfortunately he was killed in a shootout when he finally decided to flee the church."

"Then it could be here. If you could find it you wouldn't have to sell."

"It was searched at the time and nothing was found. And there have been renovations since then, so I think if he'd hid it here it would have been found be now."

"Maybe, but if I were you, I'd be searching the records and looking where there hasn't been renovations made."

"That's a good idea, but even if I did find the gold, I'm sure I'd have to give it over to the government."

"I don't think that would be the case since it happened so long ago. I also think you'd be exempt from revealing it since you're a religious organization."

"Perhaps you're right. I guess it wouldn't

hurt to look into laws."

"And I don't think you should worry about tearing the place apart while you search. I mean, either way, you can't lose."

"What do you mean?"

"Well, if you have to sell the place it'll likely be demolished, so it won't matter to the new owners if you do some damage. Or, if you do find the gold, you'll be able to fix whatever you mess up."

"That's a good point. Still, it will feel sacrilegious destroying the alter, but that would be where I'd hid something valuable knowing it wouldn't be disturbed."

"That's understandable. Well, I'll leave you to do as you feel is the right thing. I'll send over a photographer this afternoon and get the listing up in the morning."

"How long do you think it'll take to find someone interested in buying the place?"

"That's hard to say since I've never sold a grand old church before. Still, it's in a desirable location, so I don't imagine it'll take long."

After the realtor left he went into the office and began looking through the church records. He knew of the newest renovations of course, but he wasn't sure about the older ones. After a few hour of searching he came to the conclusion that only one place in the church had gone untouched. He was anxious to get started, but he needed to wait until the photographer got there and finished his job.

* * * * *

"Hello," Mr. Alton answered a few days after listing the church for sell.

"Hello there, this is Pastor McKenna."

"Pastor McKenna, yes, if you're calling to see if I have any prospects yet, I'm afraid I don't."

"I'm actually calling to inform you that I'm no longer selling the church."

"Really? Does that mean you found the gold?" He was excited to hear all about it.

"I'm only going to say we were given an anonymous donation; a large one."

(Continued on next page)

“Oh,” he said with a chuckle. “I think I understand, and I’m glad to hear it. I would have hated myself if that beautiful old building were destroyed and replaced by condos.”

“Well, I guess God answered my prayers by sending you my way.”

“That’s a nice way to look at it. And I’m glad to have been a part of his plan.”

“I’m glad to say I can also afford to do some renovations that have been put off since the church was built.”

“I see,” he said with a smile. “I hope there’s not too much damage.”

“Not bad, and I’ll feel good about giving something to the church that will be there for years to come.”

“I hope it will help bring back the parishioners, otherwise I’ll be hearing back from you in a

few years.”

“From your lips to God’s ears,” he said with eyes raised to the heavens. “But I have faith they’ll return, and if they don’t, I’ve invested enough that it shouldn’t be a problem for a long time.”

“Well I wish you luck, and I might drop by this Sunday to see how things are going.”

“You see, already the church has one more member, so God must be answering my prayers.”

“Maybe,” Mr. Alton says thoughtfully. “I’ll see you this weekend, and perhaps I’ll get my colleges to join me.”

“I look forward to seeing you, God bless and goodbye Mr. Alton.” With the church now off the market he felt much better. Even with the infusion of cash the church would struggle, but it was a new start.



September Meeting 7 p.m. Tuesday, September 19, 2023,

Nikki Hanna

Presents

Evaluating Printing, Publishing, & Marketing Options

Join us and our speaker, Nikki Hanna, as she explains how these processes present a minefield for writers, especially novices. This presentation explores those nuances of the publishing industry that make it challenging for writers to develop successful strategies for sharing what they write. Pros and cons of various printing, publishing, and marketing options are introduced and evaluated. This includes information designed to assist writers navigate the maze of influences on those decisions. Tips on how to avoid opportunists and scammers are also revealed. There are many paths to success. This presentation provides details writers need to nestle into a fulfilling sweet spot in the realm of writing and publishing.

BULLETIN BOARD

Write Something Today,
Don't Delay.

Writing Our Hearts Out: Writing Workshop and Retreat

10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Saturday, October 14, 2023
Free. Limited to 25 participants

This is a Member Workshop
Not Nightwriter Sponsored

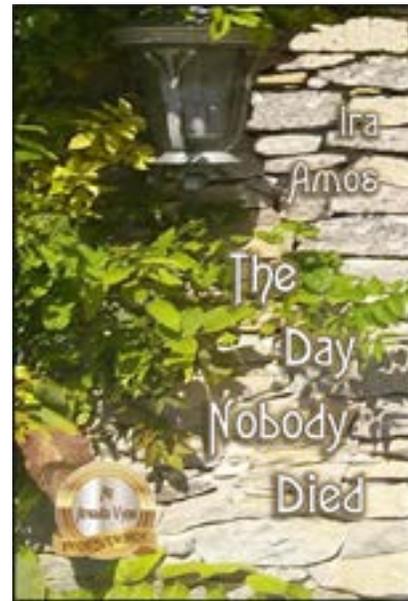
For those who have experienced the death of a husband, wife, or life partner, writing about that loss can be a helpful and healing process.

Whether the death of a loved one is after a long illness or is sudden and unexpected, many life-changing disruptions occur. Ranging from reduced income to the dynamics with friends when you are no longer part of a couple, many new issues and situations arise.

This writing retreat is a day to focus on you, and to share with others who have lost a wife, husband or life partner. You will have an opportunity to listen, learn and heal through writing and sharing that pain and grief.

The writing workshop will be led by three widows who have lost their spouses within the past three years. They are teachers and professional writers who will offer advice and expertise as you write about the loss, using the time in the workshop as a healing exercise.

Details and registration at: jbnicholson-hunt@gmail.com



Derek Bullard's alter ego, Ira Amos, recently published his second novel in the Arcadia Vyne Mystery Series titled *The Day Nobody Died*. Available on Amazon or through www.jameskaypublishing.com

"If there's a book that you want to read, but it hasn't been written yet, then you must write it."

Toni Morrison

NightScripts Submission Guidelines and Wants

From Members: Currently accepting ads (for books and services), articles, short stories (100 - 200 words), poetry, and event information.

Submit To: editor@tulsanightwriters.org
 Deadline: Last Day of the Previous Month
 Specifications: Please format your text as follows:
 Times New Roman, 12 pt
 Single Spaced
 Attach as a doc or pages
 Attach graphics and / or photographs

From Non-Members: Paid Ad Space Available, contact editor@tulsanightwriters.org



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If you don't see your genre in our online store, send us an e-mail... - We can custom design!

GiftsForAuthors.etsy.com

giftsforauthors@gmail.com

2023 TNW Board & Meeting Information

Merle Davenport
President
President@tulsanightwriters.org



Tulsa NightWriters will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday, September 19, 2023, location information below.

Kathryn Helstrom
Vice President
VicePresident@tulsanightwriters.org



September Speaker
Nikki Hanna
on
Evaluating Printing, Publishing, & Marketing Options
See page 7 for additional information.

Bill Wetterman
Treasurer
treasurer@tulsanightwriters.org



Directions

Take the I-244 to downtown Tulsa, and exit on Detroit. If you are coming from the west, the exit for the OSU campus is on the LEFT.

From Detroit Ave., turn right onto JH Franklin Road. You will see the Auditorium and Conference Center (North Hall) on the left. You can park in Lot E (first parking lot on left), or across the street in Lot D. We meet in Room 153. Look for signs posted at both entrances.

Parking is free and open to the public. It is a very short walk, and handicapped accessible. Campus security patrols the parking lots regularly.

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