

NightScripts



December 2023

Connie Palmer Dodson, Editor

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Writing Prompt:

Does this scene inspire a story for you? **No Prompt this Month**

Write a short story of 1000 words or less and get it to me by the end of this month. I'll print my favorite in the next 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



Merry Christmas

(No Prompt This Month)

WRITE ON

Thank You

By our President, Merle Davenport



By any measure, 2023 has been an amazing year for Tulsa NightWriters. So much has happened to grow the club that it is hard to list it all. Since nothing happens by accident, I want to take the time to thank the people who have helped to make TNW a success in 2023.

First and foremost, I want to thank the TNW Board members for their hard work in helping us grow. Each one has played a vital role in the success of our writing club.

Kathryn Helstrom – Our Vice President is one of the hardest workers I know. She has organized everything from our monthly speakers to the Craft of Writing Conference. We would not be the organization we are today without her dedication and hard work. Thank you!

Bill Wetterman – The Treasurer is a critical part of our success. Without an accurate accounting of our funds, nothing can be accomplished. With Bill's guidance, we have met all our obligations and are fiscally prepared for 2024. His advice and guidance has been of great value. Thank You!

Carolyn Steele – Our Hostess has been the friendly face that greets us every month. She has been diligent to make sure that our speakers are appreciated, has sent a personal welcome to all new faces at TNW, and given a warm greeting to all she meets. She is truly the Hostess with the Mostest! Thank You!

Unfortunately, Kathryn, Bill, and Carolyn have decided to allow others to fill their roles on the Board. They will be greatly missed. Thank you again for all you have done!

Connie Dodson – Connie began serving on the Board two years ago as our Communications

Director. She did an excellent job in that role, but decided that it was time to move on to the Editor of our Newsletter. Many of you have noticed the changes in the Newsletter and how it has become an even better tool for the members to use. She was re-elected to this position on the Board and we look forward to another year of her expertise. Thank you!

Ana Maddox – Ana joined us this year as the Communications Director. Yet she has been much more than that. Because of the updates she has made to the website, more can be done online than ever before. We now have access to Paypal and other electronic payment options. Membership, signing up for seminars and conferences, announcements, and a host of other things are now possible due to her expertise and hard work. Much of the success of the Conference this year has been due to her advertising ideas and other contacts. She has truly been a positive force for TNW. Thank you!

Our new members to the 2024 Board have some big shoes to fill. I have no doubt that they will help next year be even more successful. Join me in welcoming the following new members.

Heather Westover – Vice President

Linda Berrey – Treasurer

Cheyenne Pauls – Hostess

In addition, we have two committees that are new to TNW. The Fundraising Committee (J. B. Hunt) will look for grants and other funding opportunities that will serve our members and the community at large. The Conference Committee (Ana Maddox) will assemble a team to make the Craft of Writing Conference even better than before.

Finally, I want to thank OSU for their partnership with our organization. Without the use of their facilities, much of our success would not have taken place. Thankyou!

Of course, it is you, the members of Tulsa NightWriters who have made this such a banner year for us. To one and all ... THANK YOU!

COVER CONTEST UPDATE

By our Editor, Connie Dodson

We are adding an exciting change to the monthly cover prompt writing contest in 2024.

Beginning with January's cover, I will be partnering with Ally Robertson from Wild Rose Press. She and I will work together to determine the

winner for the entries each month in 2024. Ally will then provide edits for the winning entry and it will be returned to the author. See below for rules.

I look forward to meeting your imaginations. Happy writing, and Happy Holidays.

Contest Rules

Use the cover photo as a prompt to write a short story of 1000 words or less. Entry is due by the end of that month. The winning entry will be printed in the next issue. Please make sure your entry is free of typos and is as polished as possible. As with most contests, edits will not be made to your entry prior to publication.

You must be a member of Tulsa NightWriters to enter. One entry per member. Your entry must have a title.

Last month for EARLY BIRD PRICES – The fee will go up on January 1, 2024...

~ Early Bird Fees: \$25 for novels, \$20 for shorts.

~ Prizes: First place winners will receive...

- * A lovely customized engraved award**
- * Your book/win shared to Facebook, Twitter and Instagram**
- * Featured in a 'winner' trailer that will be shared on Social Media and on this website**
- * Winners and finalists will receive certificates.**

Ten categories with two winners in each category-- one for novels and one for short stories/novellas.

***** 3 New Categories: Cozy Mystery, Horror, Women's Fiction**

If you have a fiction novel or short work published in 2022 or 2023 you are eligible to enter!! (Entries must have an original publication date of and must have been for sale in 2022 or 2023)

***** Judged by readers, not votes!**

FMI: <https://crowowfigroup.wixsite.com/website/nestcontest>

***** Also open for judging applications!!**

TO ENTER: Complete this form: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdafqNPWxQ6opWsv-i7ORWNwc74n22-WPamKzjx9vjbL_StGQQ/viewform?usp=sf_link

2024 National Excellence in
Storytelling (NEST) Contest

GREAT PRIZES!!

JUDGED BY READERS NOT VOTES!

LOW ENTRY FEE!!

Now Open for Entries

Sponsored by Central Region Oklahoma
Writers (CROW)



COVER PROMPT WINNER

THE MILL

BY JAMES R. SYBRANT

George Zimmerman looked down on the closed mill he owned not so long ago. It was now the party spot for the teenaged children of the men who cost him everything. If those men had done their jobs properly, they wouldn't have caused the accident that hurt so many of his workers. The resulting lawsuits caused him to lose everything he worked so hard and long for. Now he was going to take from those men something as precious to them as the mill had been to him; their children.

He had thought about taking the children for ransom, but he was sure he would get caught. So if he was truly going to get revenge against them there was only one thing he could think to do; kill them. If he didn't get away with making it look like an accident, well even in prison he would feel fine about it. After all, he had nothing left. Still, he hadn't been sure how to go about it. They would be drinking and something awful could happen from their drunken

antics. But he wasn't sure exactly how to insure to make that happen. Nonetheless, he needed to do something.

It had taken him some time to think of what to do, but tonight he would see his revenge fulfilled. Being teenagers, he knew they would jump at a chance at free alcohol, so he made sure to leave a few bottles of whiskey in his old office, a place where they liked to gather. But those bottles were filled with poison. He made sure there were no finger prints in case the source of the poison was discovered. Still, he hoped it would look like alcohol poisoning.

He sat down on the ridge from where he watched and waited with an untainted bottle. Come-what-may, he would have to be content with the outcome of his action. If by chance there were no fatalities, he could always try again.

Welcome Wagon

Give a big Howdy to our new members.

Eden Hemming, Tulsa
DeMetria Moaning, Tulsa
Larissa Copeland, Tulsa
Shea Boschee, Perry
Kevin Brocker, Tulsa



Hall of Fame Update

Flash Fiction Winners

Honorable Mention - *From Above*,
by James R. Sybrant,

Thrid Place - *Feedsack Girl on a Swing*
by Jeanean Doherty,

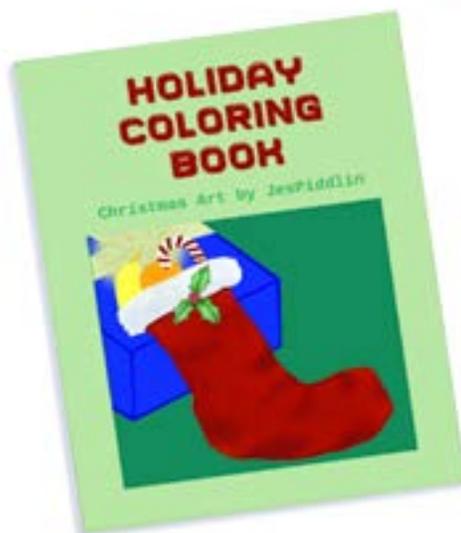
Second Place - *Local Warming*
by Elizabeth Van Deusen,

First Place - *Magic*
by Linda Berrey

The Hall of Fame recipient will be announced at the January meeting. Our president shared at the Christmas Party that there was a delay with the plaque and he wanted to wait until it could be awarded and done right. I hope to see you all at the January meeting as we start our 2024 stories.

“If you do not hear music in your words, you have put too much thought into your writing and not enough heart.”
- Terry Brooks

Renee' La Viness's Christmas coloring book is finally available!
Look for her pen name, JesPiddlin.



Great Gift Idea!

52 large pictures
Hand-drawn art
Not computer-generated
Single-sided pages
For big or little kids
of all ages

[amazon.com/dp/
B0CN5M6B9S](https://amazon.com/dp/B0CN5M6B9S)

BULLETIN BOARD

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“In writing. Don’t use adjectives which merely tell us how you want us to feel about the thing you are describing. I mean, instead of telling us a thing was “terrible,” describe it so that we’ll be terrified. Don’t say it was “delightful”; make us say “delightful” when we’ve read the description. You see, all those words (horrifying, wonderful, hideous, exquisite) are only like saying to your readers, “Please will you do my job for me.”

C.S. Lewis

NightScripts Submission Guidelines and Wants

From Members: Currently accepting ads (for books and services), articles, short stories (500-1000 words), poetry, and event information.

Submit To:	editor@tulsanightwriters.org
Deadline:	Last Day of the 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

2023 TNW Board & Meeting Information

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Tulsa NightWriters will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday, January 16, 2024, location information below.

"You may not write well every day, but you can always edit a bad page. You can't edit a blank page."

- Jodi Picoult

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 150. 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.

