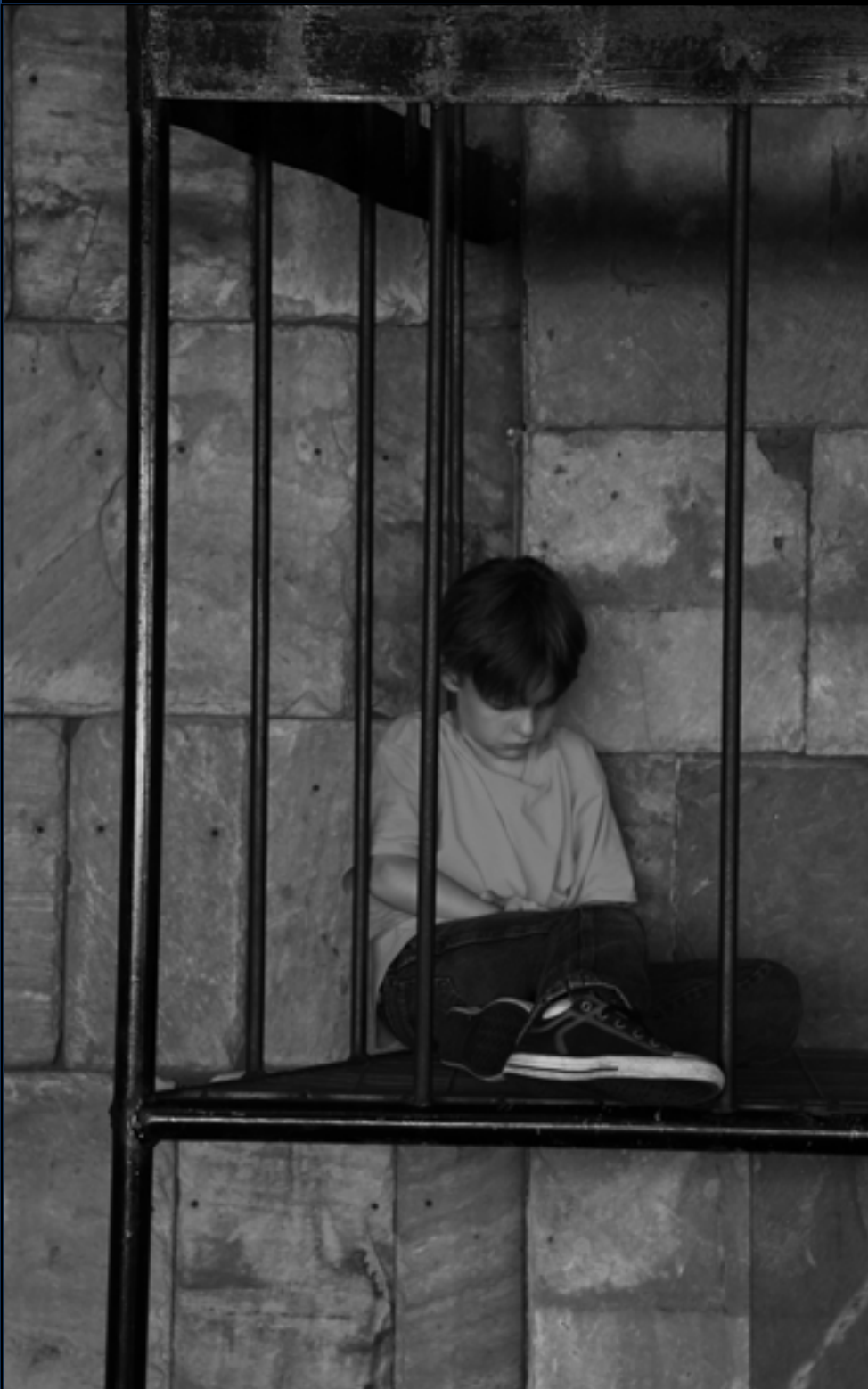


NightScripts



March 2024

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 the end of this month. The winning entry will be printed in the next issue and edited by Ally Robertson from Wild Rose Press.

One entry per member.

Don't forget to title your story. Put Writing Prompt in the subject line and submit it to: editor@tulsanightwriters.org Full details on page 3.

You can also just use the image to spark a scene or a story for your personal writing journey.

WRITE ON

What's In a Name?

By our President, Merle Davenport



“A rose by any other name would smell as sweet.” – Shakespeare, *Romeo and Juliet*.

For the writer, what's in a name? Why are names so important? Is it true that a rose would smell as sweet if it was named frost, or perhaps ragweed?

Would we even stop to smell a rose if we considered it a weed because of all the thorns?

Most writers agonize over names in a story, and for good reason. The name of a character helps to define him/her in the reader's mind. You can't name a lazy slob, “Skip” or “Pepper.” It just doesn't work.

On the other hand, Thomas works better for a studious character than Tom. Of course, historical characters who were named Prudence or Patience, as they were in American colonial times, may have difficulty connecting to the modern reader.

Here are some hints to creating good names for your characters.

1. Make the name memorable – Using alliteration (Susan Swan) or unique spelling (Smyth instead of Smith) can make it easier for the reader to remember.

2. Give the name a special meaning – “Beatrice was her grandmother's name.” “With a name like Patience, we never understood why she was always in a hurry.” Gimli from the *Lord of the Rings* was the Nordic name for the land of the Dwarves.

3. Make them fit – Using a list of period appropriate baby names is helpful (for example, Google male baby names from 1700 Scotland). When writing fantasy, make sure that your names match the national culture of your characters. If you

are writing a sprawling epic, the reader should be able to identify the race (elf, dwarf, orc, hobbit, etc.) or nationality (Gondor, Rohan) from the character's name.

4. Give nicknames when needed – Samwise, Peregrin, and Meriadoc became Sam, Pippin, and Merry. If your character's name is unpronounceable in our tongue, give them a shorter, memorable name, such as the Ent “Treebeard.” Nicknames can also be descriptive to give the readers hints about their personality. “They called her Scooch because she never crawled as a baby. She scooched across the floor like a frog swimming through the water.”

5. Keep the names reader-friendly – One or two syllable names are much easier for readers to pronounce than long, complex names. I always loved the name Gyruliad. I used it in a story and my readers just skipped over it. It was too much work to pronounce, so it interrupted the flow of the story. Also, in long epic, too many unfamiliar sounding names can be hard to keep track of which may frustrate the reader.

6. Keep the names distinct – Having sisters named Julie, Juliet, Julia, and Julianna is nearly impossible for the reader to remember. In a tale with several main characters, each name should be unique enough for the reader to identify the character easily and connect to their role in the story.

The bottom line is, “Don't let a poor name choice get in the way of a good story.” Take some time and make your characters' names ring in the minds of your readers long after they put down your book.



COVER PROMPT WINNER

The Days of Ice

By James R. Sybrant

The ice storm was worse than predicted; it was supposed to be nothing more than a thin coating, causing slick roads, but little more. However, the ice kept adding up until tree limbs snapped along with power-lines.

Darkness fell as the power went off, and with it the heater. The cold soon descended in the small house. But with the many candles burning for light, and occasionally turning on the gas oven, the temperature steadied around 50 degrees; after the bedrooms were blocked off.

Being without power in the modern world is a terrible thing, even having a car charger did little good with the car entombed in ice, so it wasn't long before there was little to do once the devices all died. There were plenty of physical books to read, but with the dim light of the candles, it wasn't easy to do.

So that left listening to the creaking, snapping and crashing of the trees. It was eerie and beautiful at the same time. But it was the trees overhanging the house that worried me. If a tree crashed through the roof, the little warmth that was held within would be sucked away. There was nothing to do about that beyond praying. That was another thing to occupy the mind; praying for loved ones that were in the same situation.

Still, it was the barn across the road that got my attention, before the sun set; the front was smashed and opened to the elements. The animals that relied on that shelter were nowhere to be seen. Where had they gone? Were they safe at another shelter I couldn't see? Or had they perished in the terrible winter weather? Could they be crushed under the fallen trees and I couldn't see them there?

While there was nothing I could do for the animals had they been standing before me, I couldn't get them off my mind, but my dog nudged my hand, letting me know I could at least keep him safe.

So in the light of the candles glow, I gave

him all the attention that I would have given to my phone, or the T.V., or my e-reader, he was grateful. He lavished in the affection for a time, but soon grew tired of the attention, and went off to be by himself. It wasn't long before a large limb, by the sound of it, hit the roof; bringing the dog back to be reassured everything was all right.

"I hope you know you're as much a comfort to me as I am to you," I said as I ran my hands through his fur. He only pushed his nose into my leg in response.

He stayed with me, shaking whenever there was a crash from a limb breaking, glad to have me there.

When I finally lay on the couch, covered by layers of blankets, he climbed up and settled behind my legs as I lay on my side. We stayed that way for hours; me napping, worried about the candles, while he worried about the strange noises outside.

I woke with a start from a dream that the house was on fire. I sat up and saw that the candles were the only thing burning. Then a shutter ran through the dog and I knew the real reason I woke; the dog was cold. As the blankets slid from my shoulders, I realized the temperature in the room had dropped. I untangled myself from the blankets and the dog, and went to the kitchen, turning on the oven. I knew it wasn't a good idea because of the carbon dioxide, but we needed more heat. Thirty minutes later I turned it off, still cold, but the dog wasn't shivering.

Once the sun rose, I was able to part the curtains and read. Still, the outside world kept dragging my attention away for the book, and I remembered little of what I'd read. It was that barn that kept me distracted more than anything. Were the animals all safe or not? Again, I knew there was nothing I could do for them, but I wanted to do something beyond worrying. Nonetheless, I stayed inside, where I would be safe from falling limbs. **(Continued on page 5)**

NightWriter News

NightWriter 2023

Ana Maddox is co-founder and Director of Engagement of Zealot Branding, a full-service branding and marketing agency. A writer both in her work and personal life, Ana joined the Tulsa NightWriters in November of 2022 and hit the ground running by joining the board. She redesigned the website giving it a much more professional appearance. She also spearheaded the effort to introduce electronic payments for TNW and was of great assistance in converting TNW to a 501c3. During the Craft of Writing Conference, she worked closely with others to make it the most successful conference in our history. In short, she played a major role in making 2023 a very successful year for Tulsa NightWriters. Because of her devotion to the group, she has been named "Tulsa NightWriter of the Year" for 2023.



We're Hosting a Live Lit Night! March 28th Heirloom Rustic Ales

Join us as we host an OSU Center for Poets & Writers Live Lit Night at Heirloom Rustic Ales. We'll take submissions soon to consider for the readings by Tulsa NightWriter members. We'll follow up the readers with an open mic time, so think about a piece you want to share with the world!



March Meeting |

Writing Historical Fiction with Author Anthony Wood
March 19 @ 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Writing historical fiction can be fun and exciting, requiring a lot of hard work and diligence, but also can leave both author and reader having had a meaningful and rewarding literary experience.

Anthony Wood will share with us reasons why we should write historical fiction, guiding principles, a path to follow for successful writing of the genre, the importance of research, some pitfalls, using ancestors in your story, and a bit about his own writing journey.

Continued from pg 2 -Send in the Cardinals)

The dog and I stayed in the same small space, comforting one another, for three days before the power was restored. If not for the dog to keep me company, I'm not sure I would've made it

through those days; not sane, anyway. And now we had a new found appreciation for one another. Technology is great when it works, but in the end, it really means little compared to the love of your fur baby.

Writing Opportunity

A neighbor wants to write a nonfiction book that deals with the military industrial complex. He has the information but recognizes that he needs a ghost writer. (I told him that was a paying position.) If you're qualified and want to speak to him about this, contact me and I'll supply his name and email address.
marcia@marcia-preston.com

Thanks, Marcia Preston

Member Request

Is there anyone interested in maintaining a carpool contact list organized by areas of town and suburbs? We often have people who would attend more, but either can't drive due to disabilities or are not comfortable driving at night or in downtown. The thought is that if a list existed of members that could provided transportation, then members in need could make contact and arrangements. I would think the list could be maintained on the board members Google Drive but not publicly available, so maybe one of our board members could keep it updated.



Be sure to check out the 2024 Tulsa LitFest, brought to you by the Center for Poets and Writers at OSU-Tulsa, Fulton Street Books, Whitty Books, Tri-City Collective, and a host of other organizations that comprise Tulsa's rich and diverse literary arts community. For Tulsans by Tulsans!

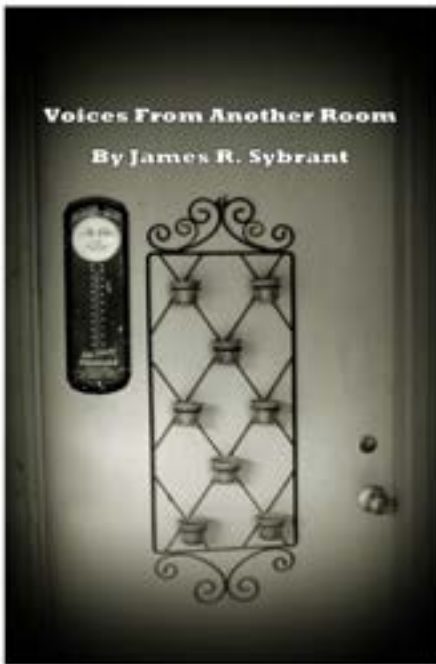
Follow Tulsa LitFest on [EventBrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com), stay tuned to our social media pages, and bookmark tulsalitifest.org for updates.

Cover Prompt Contest Rules

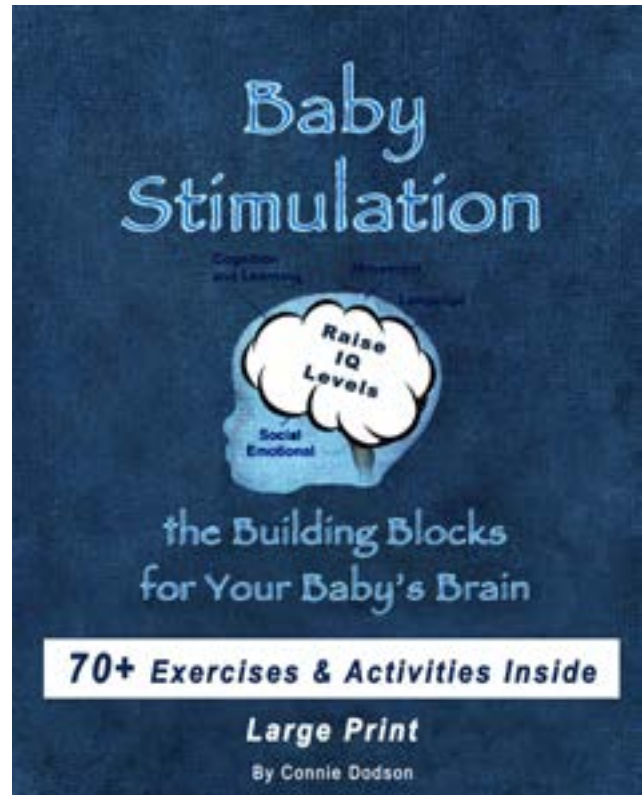
Use the cover photo as a prompt to write a short story of 1000 words or less. Entry is due by the end of that month. The winning entry will be printed in the next issue. Please make sure your entry is free of typos and is as polished as possible. As with most contests, edits will not be made to your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

You must be a member of Tulsa NightWriters to enter. One entry per member. Your entry must have a title. Submit entry to: editor@tulsanightwriters.org and **Put Writing Prompt in the subject line.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS



A Collection of Short Stories
Available on Amazon.com
Kindle and Paperback



New Release
[Available Here On Amazon](https://a.co/d/dc4XMxe)
<https://a.co/d/dc4XMxe>

Welcome Wagon

Give a big Howdy to our new members.

Lawrence Roth, Owasso
Paula McCann, Oklahoma City



BULLETIN BOARD

EDITING SERVICES

- * Proofreading
- * Copy Editing
- * Developmental Editing
- * Summary

Contact Julie Kimmel-Harbaugh
juliekh314@gmail.com
 918-720-4866 (cell)

“There’s nothing to writing. All you do is sit down at a typewriter and open a vein.”

— Sol Stein, *Stein on Writing: A Master Editor Shares His Craft, Techniques, and Strategies*

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www.maryloumontgomery.com

Email to begin the conversation:
montgomery.editor@yahoo.com

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

2024 TNW Board & Meeting Information

Merle Davenport
President
President@tulsanightwriters.org



Tulsa NightWriters will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday,

March 19, 2024,

location information below.

Heather Westover
Vice President
VicePresident@tulsanightwriters.org



“Good writing is supposed to evoke sensation in the reader - not the fact that it is raining, but the feeling of being rained upon.”
-E. L. Doctorow

Linda Berrey
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 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.

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