

NightScripts

MAY 2024

OWFI Contest
Winners

2024 Anthology Deadline
Fast Approaching

Writing with
Mother Nature



NightScripts



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From the Editor

Lately Oklahoma has been showing off the wild weather that made it famous in classic movies like *Twister*. You might have noticed. And there have been more movie stars seen filming in Tulsa's downtown.

Sometimes drawing everyone's attention can feel a little overwhelming, even when it's for good reasons. But those are the times it helps to have people standing by your side.

This month we take a moment to celebrate those who put themselves and their work out there in various categories of the OWFI conference contest. Just submitting was a victory, but quite a few also came back winners. Way to make us all look good, ya'll!

We hope that their success inspires you to stretch out your own literary wings, be it through submitting to the upcoming anthology, going to the storytelling festival, or investigating publishing avenues.

As fellow Tulsa NightWriters, we always stand beside you!

Aubrey Green
Editor

OWFI Contest Winners



Thank you to everyone who submitted this year. What a night! Out of thirty-eight categories, the Tulsa NightWriters had nine member winning fifteen different awards! Well done!

UNPUBLISHED ESSAY

1st Place:

"Let's Raise Our Voices About Noisy Restaurants" by Jeanean Doherty

UNPUBLISHED ARTICLE: INSPIRATIONAL

2nd Place:

"The Empty" by Joyce Hanewinkel

1st Honorable Mention:

"Her Birthday is the Least of Her Concerns" by J.B. Nicholson

UNPUBLISHED POETRY: RHYMED SHORT

1st Place:

"Emerald Eyes" by Merle Davenport

UNPUBLISHED POETRY: RHYMED LONG

1st Place:

"Midamir and Tinayel" by Merle Davenport

UNPUBLISHED POETRY: UNRHYMED LONG**3rd Honorable Mention:**

"Press 9 for Customer Service" by Kenyon J. Blunt

UNPUBLISHED SHORT STORY: FLASH FICTION**1st Honorable Mention:**

"Deadly Imagination" by Kathlyn Smith

UNPUBLISHED SHORT STORY: YOUNG ADULT**2nd Place:**

"A Dark Place" by Donna Welch Jones

UNPUBLISHED SHORT STORY: ADULT**2nd Place:**

"The Crone's Odyssey" by Joyce Hanewinkel

UNPUBLISHED SHORT, SHORT STORY: ADULT**1st Place:**

"Found" by Donna Welch Jones

2nd Place:

"High Rise Surprise" by Linda Trout

UNPUBLISHED SHORT, SHORT STORY: ROMANCE**1st Honorable Mention:**

"Shoes" by Jeanean Doherty

UNPUBLISHED SHORT STORY: WESTERN**3rd Place:**

"Floods Stir Up Dangerous Things" by Ben C. Johnson

UNPUBLISHED BOOK: NON-FICTION**3rd Place:**

Criminal Thinking by Merle Davenport

UNPUBLISHED BOOK: MYSTERY/SUSPENSE**1st Honorable Mention:**

Good Bones by Kathlyn Smith



Writing with Mother Nature

By Merle Davenport



Tornados have caused tremendous damage recently in Oklahoma. On April 27, an EF3 tornado hit the town of Sulphur, leaving one dead. On that same day, another EF3 hit Spaulding, killing two, and an EF4 landed around Lake Murray, where another person died. More recently, May 6, an EF4 demolished the town of Barnsdall, where one was reported dead and another missing but presumed dead.

John Lennon said, “Life is what happens to you when you’re busy making other plans.” It’s true. The residents of the tornado-ravaged towns were going to school, getting in or out of relationships, building, dreaming, and ... WHAM! Nature interrupted everyone’s plans. Life for them now is divided into “before the tornado,” and “after the tornado.”

It doesn’t really matter whether your character was raising peaches in Gettysburg in 1863 or strolling in the park in San Francisco in 1906. Disaster came without warning. When it did, lives were forever changed.

As writers, conflict and disaster are vital to keep the reader's interest. Who wants to read a story where everything is always great and nothing happens? Unless your purpose is to put people to sleep, you will need some challenge that your hero needs to overcome. Consider the following:

1. **Nature is untamed** – Your hero must survive a situation that is completely out of his control. Undersea volcanoes can produce tsunamis that erase coastal villages. They can also create a new chain of islands.

2. **Nature is powerful** – The characters in your book won't be able to overcome nature, only endure it. Mt. St. Helen's erupted in 1980, killing fifty-seven, destroying 200 homes and 185 miles of highway. Ash traveled from the state of Washington to Chicago, Illinois.



3. **Nature is unpredictable** – Earthquakes are a good example of unpredictable disasters. Scientists might know the conditions are right for an earthquake to happen, but they lack the ability to predict date and time.

4. **Disasters change lives** – Anyone who lived through the Dust Bowl of the 1930s changed from who they were prior to the disaster. Reports state that dust clouds more than a mile high stretched from horizon to horizon. Nothing was spared.

5. **Nature doesn't care if you're rich or poor** – In 1874, an estimated 12 trillion locusts swarmed across two million square miles of the United States from upper Montana to lower Texas. They landed in hordes and ate everything—food, clothing, animals —everything.

When writing your next story, consider including a natural disaster. Struggling against the powerful forces of nature provides great opportunities for both internal and external conflict. Development of your characters against a backdrop of high winds, raging fires, or overwhelming floods will keep the reader absorbed in your tale.

Anthology Submissions Due June 10th

Exclusively for Tulsa NightWriter's Members. Not a member yet, we'd love for you to join us!

Anthology Theme

Echoes of Tradition:

Indigenous Orientation to Community, Time, and Land

Description

In this anthology, we explore and contrast the differences between indigenous cultural views of community, land, and time vis-à-vis that of the dominant Western culture. Whether such differences manifest themselves in poetry, prose, or essay - whether you are highlighting the differences or simply embracing one of the Native American concepts - we challenge you to explore the Native American approach to these essential parts of our lives and incorporate them into your writing.

Click [here](#) to review the full description and submission guidelines.

All submissions accepted through our website link [here](#).

Submissions due by June 10th.



Indie Authors?

By Heather Westover

It seems to be a new buzz word, a phrase all over the literary landscape and social media. There are Indie Appreciation Weeks and Indie Support Groups. Those of us who have published independently appear to be the latest group of ‘Cool Kids.’ But is it all cool?

Publishing independently means you do everything yourself—write the manuscript, contract an editor, also a cover artist, and also a digital artist for trailers and social media graphics, and even formatting your own work. Then you secure your own ISBN and upload your manuscript to KDP, IngramSpark, and any other platform you might choose.

This sounds like a lot of work! And where’s the time to actually write if I’m doing everything else? It can seem daunting. But there are also some really great benefits.

- Retain all the rights to your work.
- You receive 100% of the royalties from your book
- Have total control over content, revisions, and copy editing
- Are in complete creative control of everything from the cover, to the social media campaigns
- You can pursue marketing in the way that is the most comfortable for you. Or you can hire it done.



There are benefits to going with traditional publishers, like not having to do any of this work. You write and someone else covers everything else. For some, the love of creating the story is the fulfillment they crave. Having someone else make marketing, editing, illustration, and distribution decisions is actually a relief! At the OWFI conference this weekend, I learned that traditional publishing can also be a real benefit in certain genres or stand alone work.

The biggest downside for publishing traditionally seems to be that the publisher can, in some cases, retain 100% rights to your work for 70 years after your passing.

As you go forth in your journey, I encourage you to look into each type of publishing and how they may benefit your unique situation. Reach out to other Tulsa NightWriters and mentors in your writing life. Whichever you decide, you have a fulfilling journey ahead of you, perfecting the art of storytelling.

I can't wait to see what you create!

Heather's newest book *Being Married: One Lucille Ball Moment at a Time* was released in February of 2024. You can pick up your copy [here](#).

Upcoming Events

May 21st

Monthly Meeting: OWFI Winners

Join us as we celebrate our own winners from the OWFI Conference. We will shake their hands, pat them on the back, and listen to them read excerpts from their award-winning pieces.

[LEARN MORE](#)

June 7th & 8th

Spirit of Oklahoma Storytelling Festival

Stories engage the imagination, stir the senses, and inspire dreams. Join the Territory Tellers at Roe State College for this unique event.

[LEARN MORE](#)

June 10th

Deadline for Anthology Submissions

Don't miss this your opportunity to be published alongside other talented writers and poets! For a description and complete guidelines, click below or go to the Tulsa NightWriters website.

June 18th

Monthly Meeting: Phetote Mshari

Join us for an evening with Phetote [Fee toh tee] Mshairi [Em shah ee ree], an entrepreneur; Tulsa Artist Fellow; poet; author; publisher; mentor; advocate; actor; songwriter; playwright; curator; host; and keynote speaker from Tulsa, Oklahoma.

July 13th

Poetry Workshop

Join us for this three-hour poetry workshop with Phetote Mshairi and strengthen your poetry skills.

Just \$20 for students & members, \$25 for the general public.

[LEARN MORE](#)

July 16th

Monthly Meeting: Bill Wetterman

In this meeting, Bill Wetterman will lead us through Structure and the Hero's Journey! He is an author of Thrillers and Christian non-fiction. Bill has won numerous awards and is a speaker, editor, and publisher.

Tulsa Night Writers:
We don't judge if
you prefer fictional
characters to real
people!



April's New Members

Allie Thrower - Tulsa

Colton Holmes - Tulsa

Jennifer Clark - Jenks

Dr. Deidra Suwanee Dees - Alabama

CRAFT OF WRITING CONFERENCE

THE POWER OF STORYTELLING

October 19th & 20th
OSU Tulsa

REGISTRATION COMING SOON

Day one will focus on the Craft of Writing, and day two will cover the post-writing and publishing side of things. Each day of the conference is stand-alone so you can attend one or the other or attend them both for a discounted rate.

Conference Fees

\$55/day for Members & Students or \$100 for both days
\$75/day for General Public or \$140 for both days

Conference Opportunities

There are many ways you can get involved with the conference - and we need your help!

Become a Sponsor or Help Us Find Sponsors!

Sponsorships are pivotal in helping us keep the conference affordable and attract special speakers, and we need your help finding some.

We have lots of great sponsorship opportunities for businesses, with benefits in return. Perhaps you have a business yourself and know you'd like to be a sponsor, or perhaps the business you work for likes to sponsor local events. To view our sponsorship document, [CLICK HERE](#).

Buy an Ad in the Conference Brochure

If you have a business service you offer that would be appealing to other authors, or maybe you have a book you're releasing and you want to promote that - then perhaps an ad will benefit you! Two size ads are available, a 1/8 of a page for \$50 and a 1/4 page for \$100. If you need an ad designed for you, you can simply provide the information and someone on the design team will lay it out for you.

Volunteer!

As we are expanding the conference to two days, we will need additional volunteers to help make it all happen. From help at set up or tear down to help with our guest speakers and meals, we'll need as many willing helpers as possible. Having volunteers helps us keep the conference costs affordable.

If you are interested in volunteering, email our conference chair, Ana Maddox at communications@tulsanightwriters.org.

Member Services, Brags, and Opportunities

\$10 Entry

HOT PLATE




WRITING CONTEST

\$10 Entry

Sixth Annual
La Viness Short Story Writing Contest
www.jespiddlin.com/writingcontest

FIRST PLACE \$100
SECOND PLACE \$75
THIRD PLACE \$50

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED JULY 1ST - AUGUST 31ST



ALL WE ARE IS OUR STORY.

JUNE 7 & 8

Territory Tellers

Spirit of Oklahoma
 Storytelling Festival

Rose State College
 Community Learning Center

\$35 Festival Pass
 \$15 Sat. Concert Only

Congratulations to member Carol Lavelle Snow! *The Lyric* awarded her its Fall Quarterly Prize for her poem "Autumn Years" which appeared in the Fall 2023 issue of the magazine.

Become a NightWriter Today!



Not a member yet?

We'd love to have you check us out during one of our monthly meetings!

Ready to Join?

Membership is \$25 per year. Simply scan the QR code below or visit tulsanightwriters.org/membership-application



Visit Us Online

TULSANIGHTWRITERS.ORG

NightScripts Submission Guidelines

- Accepting ads for services; should be submitted monthly for consideration/ inclusion.
- Accepting announcements for book releases with links for purchase; these will appear in the newsletter for two months.
- Accepting articles for consideration on writing and publishing-related topics.
- Accepting event announcements for writing and publishing related events.

Deadline

Last Day of the Month prior to publication. Please submit your ad or announcement at least two months before you need it to appear. For full details and submission specs - [CLICK HERE](#).

NightScripts

“Tulsa has been ... the place in America that reeked of literary magic to me.”

NEIL GAIMAN



May 2024

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