

NightScripts

SEPTEMBER 2024

How to Support Your Indie
Author

More Critique Groups and
Reading Opportunities

Call for Conference
Volunteers



NightScripts



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From the Editor

Pumpkin muffins, pumpkin coffee, pumpkin cheesecake, pumpkin ravioli ... Yup, sounds like it must be Fall!

And with the weather turning kinder (at least for a spell) we would like to offer this PSA to all NightWriters - make sure you're getting away from your computers. It get's so easy to lose ourselves in our stories and our projects and forget to look up and smell the autumn leaves. But getting outside helps you connect with your sense, with the world around you, and sometimes even with the people around you. It gets the blood moving and the brain working and sometimes the solution to that messy writing problem presents itself if you just step away for a little while.

So get out there and play in the leaves! Enjoy the fall air! Drink something pumpkin flavored if you absolutely must.

And just because I'm curious who reads this bit, come find me at the next meeting and mention this article - there might be a piece of chocolate in it for you ... :)

Aubrey Green

Editor

Tips for Writers

By Merle Davenport



I spent some time with a couple of masters of the craft of writing recently. They gave me some words of advice I would like to pass along.

1. Don't let your characters act out of character – I know this sounds obvious, but I'm struck by how many books have their main characters act in ways

that are uncharacteristic. Every time I read one, I scratch my head and wonder if the author knows their own characters. Take the time to understand your characters. It benefits both the writing process and the reading pleasure.

2. Only one coincidence is allowed per book, and it must not help the protagonist – I read a book about a retired Navy Seal who would give Rambo some competition. During an intense fight scene, the hero dove behind a planter and magically found a loaded .45, which he used to eliminate his assailant. When I read this, I rolled my eyes and closed the book. Remember, if a coincidence happens, it should always make life more complicated for the hero, not less.

3. If your story is told from the main character's point-of-view (POV), then the author must show readers the things that matter most to the main character – Remember, the main character doesn't know what's coming in the story. If he's a butterfly collector, he needs to see butterflies; and if a rare butterfly is on a branch overhanging a raging river, guess what? He'll go after the butterfly, no matter how crazy it sounds. In your character's

mind, the danger is less important than adding to his collection. Of course, the branch breaks and your character falls into the river, but that's what makes the tale interesting.

4. Explanations keep the readers from feeling the emotion of your character – Instead of writing, “She was angry,” write, “Her eyes blazed and her fists clenched.” Let the reader see your character's emotions. Explaining what they feel keeps the reader at an emotional distance from your story. Draw them in and they won't be able to put your book down.

5. Solving each problem should lead to another problem – The hero must have a problem to solve. Frodo had the “one ring to rule them all.” It was too powerful for anyone to possess. He had a problem. The only solution lay in destroying the ring in the middle of enemy territory. Problem: the ring must be destroyed. Solution: throw it into Mount Doom. Which leads to another problem: Mount Doom is in the middle of Mordor, the most secure place in the enemy's land.

6. Criticism only makes the book better – Every writer spends hours creating the best book they can. When that story receives critique, it's not unusual for the writer to defend it instead of revising it. However, using the criticism to make the book better will increase sales. Unless you are writing for your own pleasure with no intention of selling your book to others, use critiques to improve your stories.



These words of advice inspired and improved my writing skills. I hope they will do the same for you.

CRAFT OF WRITING CONFERENCE

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October 19th & 20th
OSU Tulsa

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CRAFT OF WRITING
CONFERENCE
**THE POWER OF
STORYTELLING**

Conference Fees

\$55/day for Members & Students or
\$100 for both days

\$75/day for General Public or
\$140 for both days

Pitch Sessions \$10

See our current speakers on the following pages and check the website often for updated [speaker roster](#) as we continue to add people every week!

[REGISTER TODAY](#)

Some of the Session Titles!

Saturday

- Unleashing the Power of Narrative to Explore Differences
- Short Story Craft: Nailing Your Scenes
- Plot a Novel in Less Than an Hour
- Criminal Thinking for Writer's
- Seeking 3D Main Characters
- How Tabletop RPG Can Help You Define Your Characters
- The Craft of Screenwriting
- Unlock the Power of Universal Fantasies

Sunday

- Publishing Today Panel
- Which Avenue to Publishing is Right for You
- Marketing Your Book
- Author Branding
- Preparing Your Manuscript
- Developmental Editing
- Editor Speed Dating
- Blue Print for Self-Publishing
- Launch Your Freelance Writing Career



Did you know we have critique groups for members?

Hardesty Regional Library - all genres

Group meets every first and third Saturday from 1:00 p.m -2:30 p.m.
For more details email [Linda Berrey](mailto:Linda.Berrey@hardesty.org).

Sapulpa Public Library - all genres

Group meets every second and fourth Saturday from 11:30 a.m -1:30 p.m.
For more details email [Kathryn Helstrom](mailto:Kathryn.Helstrom@sapulpa.org)

Poetry Critique Group

More details coming soon - watch the website or check back here next month!

[LEARN MORE](#)

Would you be interested in an online critique group?

We are gauging interest in starting a group online for those who can't attend in person. If this is something you'd like to be apart of, email to let us know - communications@tulsanightwriters.org

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!

Our conference is growing and with that growth, we need more volunteers to help the event run smoothly! If you're willing to help out with one or both days - fill out the form below and let us know what areas of volunteering interest you.

[LEARN MORE](#)



Upcoming Events

September 17th

Monthly Meeting: Ellen Stackable

Join us for an evening with Ellen Stackable, Executive Director of Poetic Justice. She'll discuss the power of writing to process emotions and trauma.



October 3rd

Live Lit Night at Heirloom Rustic Ales

Join us for the first Live Lit Night of the autumn season! Featured readers begin at 7:00pm followed by open mic, time allowing. Hosted by the OSU Center for Poets and Writers.

October 16th

Monthly Meeting: Pitch Polishing

If you're attending our conference and planning to pitch an agent or publisher – then be sure to attend this evening to make sure you are hitting the high points and feeling prepared.

October 19th- 20th

Craft of Writing Conference

Our theme is The Power of Storytelling, highlighting Native American storytelling and Native American writers. Come learn more about the craft of writing and the business of writing.

[LEARN MORE](#)



For What It's Worth



By Heather Westover



Publishing a book is a challenge! And even though more people are doing it, that doesn't make it any less daunting. There are many ways to support new hybrid/ indie authors, and the fact is we need your support more than ever. I want to list a few things that you can do today to help.

- **Beta Readers** - This job includes reading chapters, or maybe the whole manuscript, and pointing out things you'd like more info on, and parts that seem choppy or confusing.
- **Tell Others** - The more you tell others about us, the easier it will be to build our reader base. This can include a social media post with a picture of you holding our book, or just word of mouth. Maybe even host a book club featuring our book!
- **Request Our Books from the Library** - If people are requesting books from their libraries, the greater chance your library will make our books available. Also, you could consider donating our book to your local library.
- **Attending Author Events** - Typically, when any author releases a new book there's a launch party involved—go! And there are book signings you could attend. Just visiting with the author helps to make the event more comfortable for everyone.
- **Recommend Books** - Reviews are crucial to every author but are hard to come by when we're starting out. When you finish a book, review it on Amazon (even if you didn't purchase through there), star it, recommend it. With enough reviews, the platforms may promote our book for free!
- **Rep the Merch** - Almost all authors have some type of merch—T-shirts, bookmarks, stickers, etc. Support your friends by wearing our shirts! Put our stickers on your water bottle. Use our bookmarks. It carries a lot of weight that you believe in us enough to carry our merch.
- **Encourage Us, Please** - Writing 70,000 words can be gut wrenching. The process means we're sharing pieces of ourselves with the readers and that's tricky and exhausting. Send us a text message, buy us a coffee—anything to let us know you believe in us.

These are just a few ways you can support an Indie Author. Trust me, if your author friend had some help in these areas, they would be able to sit down and get another book released much quicker! Writing, after all, is their first love.

Happy Fall, Y'all! Have a great one!

Tulsa Night Writers: we avoid double negatives - they're a no-no



TNW President Merle Davenport shares his talents during an Open Mic at WriterCon in Oklahoma City.



TNW Editor Aubrey Green, Vice President Heather Westover and award winning author Joyce Hanewinkel at WriterCon in Oklahoma City.

August's New Members

Sarah Malks

Beth Widick

Meredith Boe

Elizabeth Hoffman

Charla Lowery

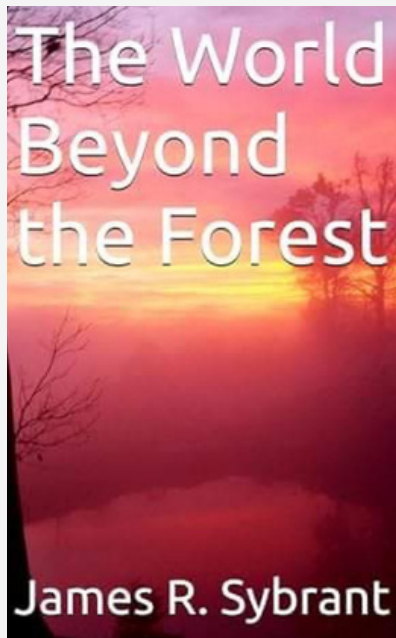
Jason McDonald

Member Services and Brags

NightWriter of the Year!

Every year an outstanding club member is selected to be the Tulsa NightWriter of the Year. This award is presented to the member the rest of the club determines contributed the most during the year.

So start thinking and get read to send your nominations in!

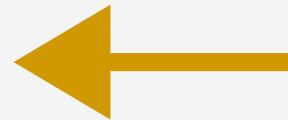


The World Beyond the Forest by James R. Sybrant .

This new fantasy is available in both kindle and paperback.

Click on the image to get your copy.

Member's Book!



Member Brag!



Congrats to Tulsa NightWriters Joyce Hanewinkel and Jeanean Doherty on multiple wins in the WriterCon contest. Making us all look good!

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 is the Paris of Oklahoma ... See me, I love Tulsa. Tulsa is heaven.”

Chandler Bing



September 2024

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