



# The Write News

A Monthly Newsletter

Elisabeth Tuck, editor

October 2015

## 3-HOUR WORKSHOP with BREAKFAST

Saturday October 10, 2015 8:30 to 1:00pm

**Hilarious \* Wrenching \* Terrifying \* Juicy**

**“Writing Emotion to Move Your Readers”**

**Amanda McTigue**



- |          |   |
|----------|---|
| Re-set   | the way we think about emotion in writing           |
| Locate   | the heart of our unique emotional content           |
| Restore  | playfulness in our emotional writing                |
| Discover | new sources of emotional content                    |
| Practice | techniques that move us from cliché to authenticity |
| Widen    | our sense of emotional landscapes                   |

**Don't miss Amanda McTigue's return to cover a new topic in a hands-on, participatory workshop.** She'll offer insights and guide us through a series of layered exercises to help us explore the *who, what, where, when, why* and above all, the *how* of feeling in our work, navigating between the lifeless and the overblown into authentic emotional material across all genres.

Amanda's 2012 debut novel *Going to Solace* attracts interest as literary fiction and for its unusual exploration of race in the Appalachian South. She is working on a new collection of climate-collapse short stories, *This is Not Water*, and a second novel, *Monkey Bottom*. A Yale grad (member of the fourth class of undergraduate women!), Amanda has written for Disney Entertainment and Paramount Entertainment. Her works for the stage have been produced at Carnegie Hall, the Minnesota Opera and the Green Music Center at Sonoma State University where she taught critical thinking, speaking and writing to freshmen last year.

Amanda makes many good points about writing in the following interview:

<https://writersotj.wordpress.com/2014/09/06/an-interview-with-amanda-mctigue/>

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Sign-in starts at 8:30 am. Breakfast 9 – 9:30am. Workshop: 9:30 – 12:30 pm at Zio Fraedo's Restaurant: 611 Gregory Lane, Pleasant Hill. \$40 members, \$50 non-members. **Reservation deadline: noon, Wednesday, Oct 7.** To reserve, contact Robin at [ragig@aol.com](mailto:ragig@aol.com), leave a message at 925-933-9670, or sign up via PayPal: click “buy now” on the Mt. Diablo website, <http://cwcmtdiablowriters.wordpress.com/next-program/>. Add \$2 transaction fee.

CWC is an IRS 501-c3 non-profit charitable organization (ID 94-6082827). Donations are fully deductible to the extent of the law.

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## President *Elisabeth Tuck*



Greetings!

If you haven't **renewed your membership** no doubt you have heard from **Marlene Dotterer**. Hop to it before the end of September or it costs an extra \$20 to renew. The form with instructions is on the next page.

On the topic of volunteers for board tasks, I'm pleased to announce that **Don Maker** has returned to work on outreach. He wants to contact other organizations to see what synergies there are between us. If you have connections with organizations you think we should contact, please let us know. We're hoping to draw in enthusiastic writers to join in the networking at our lunches and to benefit from our speakers.

**Leslie Rupley** has agreed to be our NorCal rep. That's the twice yearly gathering of northern California branch reps to share ideas for activities and speakers. Thanks for your help, Leslie!

There's always room for branch volunteers with ideas they'd like to spearhead. Unless things change drastically, there won't be a board meeting on Oct 10 but there will be Nov 14. Members are welcome to attend and see what's going on. This is your branch too, and volunteer organizations can always use a helping hand.

Look for **CRWROPPS on p. 9!** It's the answer you've been looking for.

\* \* \*

### **Important note re the meetings:**

If you don't register by noon on the Wednesday before the meeting, we need to charge you the guest rate, so book now. If you do register but need to cancel, you must do so by noon on the Friday before the meeting. We are committed to pay the restaurant for a fixed number of seats, even if we don't meet our quota, so it's a balancing act trying to ensure numbers.

\* \* \*

We apologize about the crowding at the Sept meeting. There was a glitch in reporting numbers and we didn't prepare properly for the number of people who showed up. We appreciate your patience while staff brought in another table. Never a dull moment!

\* \* \*

Did you see the slide show that was running during lunch at the September meeting? That was designed and provided by Joyce Krieg of the central board to familiarize members with where we have branches and where they meet. We're up to 21 branches now.

\* \* \*

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## *It's Annual Membership Renewal Time*

Please complete this form and include it with your \$45 annual membership (\$25 for dual membership with another branch) renewal payment. To ensure we have correct information about you, please PRINT clearly!

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_ Membership Category: Active \_\_\_\_ Associate \_\_\_\_  
 Supporting \_\_\_\_ Youth Affiliate \_\_\_\_ Principal Genre: \_\_\_\_\_ Additional Genre(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

### **Payment Information**

You can renew your membership via check or credit card by following the instructions below. Note that payment via credit card requires a \$2 credit card transaction fee making the payment a total of \$47.

#### Payment by check

Make your \$45 check payable to "CWC-Mt. Diablo Branch."

#### Payment by credit card

Please provide the following information:

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date (month/year) \_\_\_\_\_ Name as it  
 appears on the credit card \_\_\_\_\_ Billing zip  
 code \_\_\_\_\_  
 Security code on back of card \_\_\_\_\_

#### Donation to the Young Writers Program

\_\_ Check here if you would like to donate \$5 to the Young Writers Program then add \$5 to your \$45 membership renewal for a total of \$50.

Mail this completed form (with a check or credit card info) to: CWC-Membership, P.O. Box  
 606, Alamo, CA-94507.

**Security Note:** Membership information is not made public at any time.

*Thank you* for renewing your membership in the CWC-Mount Diablo Branch.  
 If you have questions, contact Marlene Dotterer via email at [cmdotterer@gmail.com](mailto:cmdotterer@gmail.com)



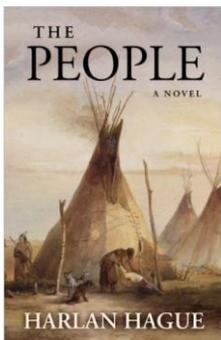
## Member Events, News and Salutes



On October 17 at Orinda Books, 276 Village Square, Orinda, from 3 – 5 pm, **Elizabeth Koehler-Pentacoff** will discuss her book, *The Missing Kennedy: A Memoir of Family, Silence, and Transformation*. Throughout Liz's childhood, her aunt, Sister Paulus Koehler, a Franciscan nun, was Rosemary Kennedy's caregiver at St. Coletta in Jefferson, Wisconsin for fifteen years and her driver and travel companion for over thirty. For more information visit [www.lizbooks.com](http://www.lizbooks.com)

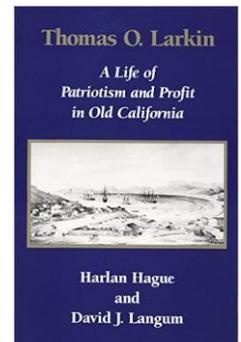
Liz's book was featured in *People Magazine's* cover story on Sept. 14. She has been interviewed by INSIDE EDITION, BBC News Radio, and Irish National Radio.

**Harlan Hague's** short feature screenplay, titled *Yo Soy Paisano*, is a semi-finalist in the Austin Film Festival competition. The top 15% advance to the second round. The screenplay is based on an episode in *Thomas O. Larkin: A Life of Patriotism and Profit in Old California*, the biography Harlan wrote with David Langum. Larkin was a United States consul to Mexican California. The screenplay tells the story of Larkin's capture by his *Californio* friends in the Mexican War and his struggle to decide whether he was at heart an American or a *Californio*.

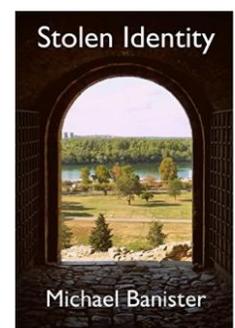


Until Dec 1, 2015 Harlan also has a Goodreads.com giveaway running on his novel, *The People*. For a chance at a free copy, go to the Goodreads link: <https://www.goodreads.com/giveaway/show/154910-the-people> . The book:

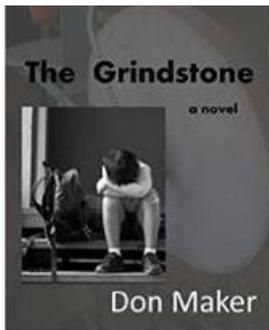
What if the western tribes had put aside traditional enmities among themselves and formed a confederation to oppose the encroachment into their lands by the United States army and American settlers? What if the Indians had superior weapons? The confederation of The People is led by the Beothuk who escaped extinction in their ancient homeland in eastern Canada and settled in the American western plains. This is a fanciful retelling of the frontier saga. It also is a star-crossed love story between an impressionable army lieutenant and a young Indian girl who is better educated and speaks more languages than her soldier lover.



**Mike Banister's** book *Stolen Identity* was reviewed in *Kirkus Reviews* in the September 15 issue, one of 35 indie books to be so honored. "Dushan's dreams had always been unusual, sometimes scary, sometimes exhilarating. His parents, who he thought had been killed in the Yugoslavian civil war, talked to him. When, the time for dreaming was past, he and his stepbrother embarked on a desperate attempt to escape their abusive step-father, who had stolen Dushan and planted the lie that his real parents were dead. The consequences were completely unexpected."



## Member Events, News and Salutes (cont'd)



**Don Maker's** latest novel, *The Grindstone*, came out Saturday, Sep. 12. Available as an ebook on Amazon at [http://www.amazon.com/Grindstone-Don-Maker-ebook/dp/B01576X4BI/ref=sr\\_1\\_13?ie=UTF8&qid=1443109132&sr=8-13&keywords=the+grindstone](http://www.amazon.com/Grindstone-Don-Maker-ebook/dp/B01576X4BI/ref=sr_1_13?ie=UTF8&qid=1443109132&sr=8-13&keywords=the+grindstone) Paperback version due soon.

“Tommy Lerner is seven years old and struggling to cope with the craziness of school, Little League Baseball, uncomprehending peers and incomprehensible adults. The normal problems of little boys growing up in a small Arizona town. . .

## WRITERS CRAFT TABLE

Are you aware of our program: Writer's Craft Table?



The Writers Table is informal and held when there's not a workshop or the Young Writers Banquet. We believe our members have writing tips to share. Let Lee know what yours are. Lee will advertise you, and ensure there's a table available for the discussion. Interested members just pull up a chair to join the group. Some discussion leaders have hand-outs; others just ask questions and share their thoughts on the topic. The Writers Table overlaps with registration. (11:15 - before lunch). Lee Paulson handles the details and calls for the last question.

Contact Lee if you have writing, marketing, or publishing tips or general advice to share with other members. You don't have to be an expert. What works for you?

[rleepaulson@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rleepaulson@sbcglobal.net)

**HINT:** This is a literary reference

**Hint x 2:** Steven King short story

**Further clue** Movie out in 1984

**(Thanks to Lily Gwilliam)**



## In memoriam

### BETTY JOAN IVERSON

February 4, 1933 - August 6, 2015

Oakland



Betty Joan Iverson, 82, returned to her heavenly home on Aug 6, 2015. Betty was born to the late Henry and Della Vogel in Missouri. She was a registered nurse with a BS degree in health science and worked hospitals, home health, and as a discharge planner at John Muir Medical Center from 1985 to 2003.



She met and married the love of her life, Theodore Iverson, in St. Louis, Missouri. They raised four children, instilling in them a strong work ethic, a deep appreciation for nature and the value of family. She was an amazing example of dedication to community service, cooking meals for the homeless, tutoring underprivileged school children, and supporting charities.

After retiring from her career in nursing, Betty wrote three non-fiction books, exploring the lives of women during the Second World War. The first, *Tabea's Story*, about a nurse in Poland, heightened her interest and research. She soon met four unique women and wrote her second book, *A Time to Flee*. Her third, *Journeys to Survival*, includes three stories which show how lives and homelands are shattered by invasion and ask, "How do ordinary citizens survive the devastation of war when it arrives on their own soil?"

Betty is survived by her husband, Ted; her sons Mark, Kent and Allan Iverson; her daughter Adriene Iverson; grandchildren Ryan, Shane, Claire Lowinger and Julian Lowinger Iverson.

She was buried at Oakmont Memorial. Donations in her honor can be made to the Moraga Parks Foundation, the Breast Cancer Fund or Yosemite Conservancy.

#### Comments from Mt. Diablo CWC Branch members who remember Betty:

She was our lunch reservation taker par excellence from 2006-8 (and I believe for many years before that). She helped on the Young Writers Contest committee. She remained on the board as an advisory member.

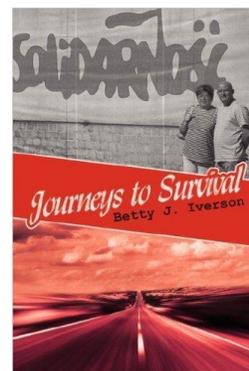
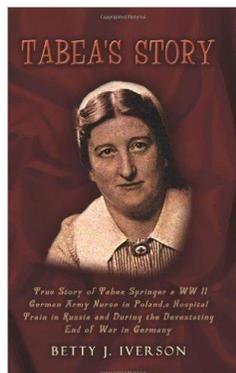
Betty was as tough as nails, no nonsense type of contributor, a hard worker, smart, articulate, and detailed.

A good writer and reservations manager

A great lady

Betty was a lovely person.

Betty wrote true stories about women who conquered overwhelming odds to survive the turmoil in Europe during World War II. She had great respect for these women, found ways to interview them and told their stories.



## OUR UPCOMING PROGRAMS



### 2015

Date	Speaker	Background / Topic
Sept 12	Grant Faulkner	The Power of Writing with Abandon (with goals in mind)
Oct 10	Amanda McTigue	“Writing Emotion” <b>Workshop</b>
Nov 14	David Congalton	“Writing Rules of the Road”
Dec 12	Ann Steiner, Al Garotto, Lynn Goodwin	The Three Ps on the Path to Publication: Prompts, Perfection and Platform

### 2016

Jan 9	Tamara Monosoff	How to Make it to No. 1 on Amazon
Feb 13	Roy Mash	Words to Woe By
Mar 12	C.S. Lakin	Editing <b>Workshop</b>
April 9		
May 14		Young Writers Awards Banquet
June 11		

Summer break July and August



## QUOTES

Donna Tart, author of *The Goldfinch* and *The Secret History* says, “To paraphrase Nabokov: all I want from a book is the tingle down the spine, for my hairs to stand on end.”

Mary Karr, author of *The Liars Club* and several other books, said, “People mistakenly believe the best memoir is the one in which the grossest stuff happens. If that were true then everybody who was at Auschwitz would have written a best seller. People had way worse childhoods than I did and they didn’t sell as many books. How it’s written counts for something.”

## MEMBER BENEFITS

### *The Back Fence*



This is the Mt. Diablo branch Yahoo online forum for our members and member guests from the Tri-Valley and Berkeley branches. At The Fence you may post or find topics of interest to other writers. You can also sign up for Back Fence e-mail notifications. The Back Fence is our lively online listserv. You can join one of two ways

- Send an email request to [cwbackfence-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:cwbackfence-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)
  - Leave the subject line blank
  - Enter “subscribe [first and last name]”
  - Send the email with nothing else in it
- Email Aline Soules at [soulesa@yahoo.com](mailto:soulesa@yahoo.com) from the email you want to use for the list, and ask to be added to the Back Fence. I’ll check to make sure you’re a member and send you an “invite.” All you have to do after that is “accept.”

After being added to The Back Fence, access is via [www.groups.yahoo.com](http://www.groups.yahoo.com) or the following URL:  
<https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/CWCBackFence/info?prop=eupdate>

To post to the Back Fence send your email to [cwbackfence@yahoogroups.com](mailto:cwbackfence@yahoogroups.com)

*The Mt. Diablo branch CWC website* <http://cwcmtdiablowriters.wordpress.com> includes

Members Pages divided by alphabet. Click on any “Members...” page in the navigation bar. If you have writing to include, email Aline Soules at [soulesa@yahoo.com](mailto:soulesa@yahoo.com) with the following information:

- your name as you want it to appear on your listing
- your website and/or blog
- your latest one or two publications, including a .jpg file of your cover, if you have one
- your latest award, if you have one

I’ll build a listing for you and work with you via email to verify that it’s correct.

Please take a quick look at your Member listing and let me know if any updates are needed.

Aline Soules  
 Online Coordinator



Here are our Mt. Diablo sites maintained by our online coordinator, Aline Soules:

Website: <http://cwcmtdiablowriters.wordpress.com>

Twitter: @cwcmtd

Facebook: [CWC Mt. Diablo Branch](#)

Back Fence: see above

## THINGS TO DO

See Lynn Goodwin's writing tips at: <https://blynngoodwin.wordpress.com/test-4/>

\* \* \*



**Check out booksellers' recommendations** for new fall books:  
<http://lithub.com/the-great-booksellers-fall-preview/>

\* \* \*

**Learn about contests, opportunities to publish**, etc., compliments of Aline, our online coordinator and Don Maker, Outreach, who have found crwropps helpful.

To sign up for the listserv **CRWROPPS** (**C**Reative **W**Riting **O**PPortunitie**S**). Follow these instructions:

To add yourself to the list, send a **blank** email to: [crwropps-b-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:crwropps-b-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

You will receive a return message with further sign-up instructions.

Or visit <https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/CRWROPPS-B/info> and click on the box labeled "Join Group."



Allison Joseph, Moderator  
Creative Writers Opportunities List

Each day you'll get about 7-10 messages which include **information about contests, requests for submissions, and open jobs** (academic, editorial, etc.). Most of these are non-paying options and most of the "calls" are from small, literary, online journals.

\* \* \*



**Look into Bookbub.com**, "a free daily email that notifies you about deep discounts on ebooks ranging from top-tier publishers to critically acclaimed independent authors. You choose the types you'd like to be notified about with categories ranging from mysteries to cookbooks. Bookbub sends deals in those genres to your inbox.

Bookbub doesn't sell books. They alert you by email to limited-time offers that become available on retailers like Amazon's Kindle store, Barnes & Noble's Nook store, Apple's iBookstore, and others. Book publishers offer deals at these sites for promotional purposes, and staff works with them to determine the best ones to feature to our members."

\* \* \*

**See about Goodreads.com** (owned by Amazon) It's a free website "with the mission of allowing members to explore the world of books, discuss literature with one another, make contact with authors and even share some of their own work with the other members of the community. And like a book club, Goodreads facilitates discussions between members."



\* \* \*



**Look at "11 Alternatives to Goodreads.com"** <http://blog.thirdscribe.com/2013/03/31/11-alternatives-to-goodreads/>

\* \* \*

**Read** member Nancy Curteman's "12 Elements Needed to Write Strong Character Relationships"

Posted September 13, 2015 <https://nancycurteman.wordpress.com/>

\* \* \*



## THINGS TO DO (cont'd)



The 13th Oregon Coast Children's Book Writers Workshop July 11-15, 2016 "right beside the ocean, overlooking giant rocks where sea lions lounge and snort. Eagles soar overhead. Whales spout." Instructors are authors, editors from major houses, and an agent. [www.occbww.com](http://www.occbww.com).

\* \* \*

*Publishing 101: The Publishers Weekly Introduction to Publishing & Self-Publishing* by Rachel Deal. An original e-book selling for \$1.99 from [www.PublishersWeekly.com/Pub101](http://www.PublishersWeekly.com/Pub101)




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## *Have You Been **Profiled**?*

The Mount Diablo Branch's *The Write News* publishes new(ish) member profiles. They are brief (usually around 400 words) biographies of members, which might include one's education, writing experiences and a picture of you/your book. It is a great way to acknowledge and become acquainted with one another.

To be profiled, please contact membership chair Marlene Dotterer at [cmdotterer@gmail.com](mailto:cmdotterer@gmail.com)




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### **Current Movie (with interesting quotes from contributors about author David Foster Wallace's writing)**

John Ponsoldt directed Jason Segel in the 2015 movie, *The End of the Tour* based on writer and journalist David Lipsky's book, *Although of Course You End up Becoming Yourself*, about a 1996 David Foster Wallace book tour. The movie is referred to as a cerebral dramedy. Wallace (pictured below) was a professor, and author of many articles and somewhat dense books like the 1,000-page *Infinite Jest*. At age 46 he committed suicide in 2008.

Segel's acting career began with comedy so playing a more serious role required comprehensive preparation. After studying interviews with David Foster Wallace and joining a book club to pour over one of Wallace's books, Segel said, "The thing that stuck out for me over and over again is this message that we're all the same. **And what David Foster Wallace and other great writers have is the gift of articulating things that we already know, but we just don't know how to express.**"

Lipsky said of Wallace's writing: **We think a thousand things at a time, and David Foster Wallace found a way to get all that across in a way that's incredibly true and incredibly entertaining at the same time. He found that junction.**



# Young Writers Contest Fundraising

Sponsored by **The California Writers Club, Mount Diablo Branch**

The statewide club is a non-profit due in part to our commitment to activities throughout the state such as Mt. Diablo’s Young Writers Contest encouraging young California writers who we support as our legacy.



**Please consider joining one of the following donor clubs to benefit our programs in support of young writers.** Your tax-deductible gift will appear in the contest program in May, and in the Mount Diablo CWC newsletter every month in the year you donate. Or remain anonymous if you prefer!

The Jack London Founder’s Circle (\$500+)

The John Steinbeck Society (\$250 - \$499)

The John Muir Member Club (\$150 - \$249)

The Ina Coolbrith Laureate Club (\$100 - \$149)

**Karen Tenney** - for the Betty Tenney Essay Prize, In honor of Elizabeth Mackintosh Tenney  
Ken Kerkhoff

The Mary Austin Writers Club (\$50 - \$99)

The Helen Hunt Jackson Group (\$25 - \$49)

**Edward Stanislawski**

**James Wiseman**

The Gertrude Atherton Guild (\$10 - \$24)

Other

**Al Garrotto**

- |                           |                        |                         |
|---------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Kai Rahbek</b>         | <b>Sheryl Ruzek</b>    | <b>Leslie Rupley</b>    |
| <b>Kevin Dunne</b>        | <b>Sheryl Mosher</b>   | <b>Colleen Gonzalez</b> |
| <b>Cathy Turney</b>       | <b>Maya Das</b>        | <b>Melanie Denman</b>   |
| <b>Ken Kerkhoff</b>       | <b>Donna Cook</b>      | <b>Phyllis Nagle</b>    |
| <b>Roger Paulson</b>      | <b>Susan Pace-Koch</b> | <b>Jill Hedgecock</b>   |
| <b>Christine Tomerson</b> |                        |                         |

Contra Costa County middle school students who enter the Young Writers Contest are eligible for cash prizes in short story, poetry, essay/personal narrative, and humor. Contest submissions are free. Check our branch website for details: [cwcmtdiablowriters.wordpress.com/young-writers-contest/](http://cwcmtdiablowriters.wordpress.com/young-writers-contest/)

The Mt. Diablo Branch hosts an awards luncheon in May of each year. All program expenses are supported by individual donations and grants. Thank you for considering membership in one of the above donor clubs.

\*\*\*\*\*

Please list my membership in the following donor club: \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Acknowledge my gift in honor/memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

Or via PayPal click “buy now” on the Mt. Diablo website <http://cwcmtdiablowriters.wordpress.com/next-program/>. Please add the \$2 transaction fee

Make a check payable to: *CWC Mt. Diablo Branch*. And mail to: CWC Mt. Diablo Branch, P.O. Box 606, Alamo, CA94507 Attention: Young Writers Contest

## Miscellaneous writing tips

### 18 Things Only Writers Struggling To Get a Novel Published Can Possibly Understand

by Lauren Cahn, Huffington Post

Posted: 09/15/2015 6:19 pm EDT Updated: 09/15/2015 6:59 pm EDT

You've always wanted to write that novel, and now you're finally deep in the weeds. You tweet "#amwriting" and suddenly you have a slew of new followers, all of whom are doing the exact same thing. But hey, there are enough readers out there for all of you, and besides, your premise is fresh, and your writing, kickass. And yet, to paraphrase the Buddha, pain is inevitable. Here's a snapshot of what that pain looks like:

1. *When a beta reader requests a hard copy.*  
At ten cents a page, Staples wanted to charge me more than \$40 to copy and bind my manuscript. I'm a struggling writer. Are you trying to kill me?
2. *When said beta reader receives the requested hard copy and emails you, "300 pages? Wow, you know you're asking me to make quite the commitment."*  
May I just ask, what did you think you were going to get?
3. *When people ask whether you have a publisher lined up -- before you've completed your manuscript.*  
I suppose I should take this as a compliment? Either that or pure ignorance of how the publishing industry actually works?
4. *When people can't wait to tell you how it's impossible to get published nowadays unless you self-publish.*  
At the risk of repeating myself, may I just say, @#\$?
5. *When people assume you're self-publishing "because that's what everyone does now."*  
But you're like, I'm not everyone, and since when did I care what everyone's doing? And why must they stomp on your three-part dream/delusion of mainstream publishing to bestseller to movie?
6. *When your characters talk back to you until you listen to what they're desperate to tell you.*  
If you've created characters with authentic imaginary lives, then you'd best listen. Also, writer's block can be very instructive, painful as it may be.
7. *You kind of hate yourself when you write, but you hate yourself more when you don't.*  
When you're in that zone, you can't possibly eat right, working out takes far too much energy, and you can't talk to people because your head is all fuzzy when you try to be of this world. But when you pull yourself out of the zone, you feel frustrated and vaguely humiliated, and terrified that the holiday-taking muse has flown the coop forever.
8. *When you stand up for the first time after five hours of being in the zone and your body is as sore and depleted as if you've just run a marathon.*  
I really want someone to explain this phenomenon to me. Please.
9. *When your teenaged son watches *The Shining* and says, "This Jack Torrance guy reminds me of you."*  
And you realize that it's kind of true. When you're in the zone, interruptions are at the interrupter's own risk. And seriously, how dare they?
10. *When your writers group only accepts screenplays.*  
How did you wind up in this place anyway? So you write a treatment, but they're totally not fooled and fully demoralize you, as is their right.
11. *When your writers group wants more zombies.*  
And you just can't write with zombies.
12. *When your writers group wants more women walking around in their skivvies.*  
All right, maybe one.
13. *When you finish your manuscript and wish there were actually a way to high-five yourself.*  
That bottle of Prosecco in the fridge does the job nicely, however.

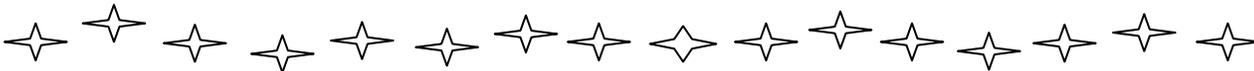
# Miscellaneous writing tips (cont'd)

## 18 Things Only Writers Struggling To Get A Novel Published Can Possibly Understand (cont'd)

- 14. *When you finish your manuscript and go into mourning because you miss your characters, even the awful ones.*  
So you just talk about them incessantly. Like even at dinners, as if they were real people whose lives you didn't invent.
- 15. *When you have to turn every one of your carefully chosen and carefully placed 100,000 words into a one- to two-hundred word synopsis.*  
See also, when you have to turn every obsessive thought you've had regarding finely nuanced characters and tightly-woven story structure into a pitch that doesn't exceed four- to five-hundred words. There are no words to describe this torture.
- 16. *On a related note: manuscript and query format.*  
I don't know about you, but double-spaced Times New Roman isn't my choice. And never in my life have I put the names of books into ALL CAPS, until now, of course. It feels weird to me, but it's industry-standard,
- 17. *When that one agent ignores your pitch and snubs you on Twitter.*  
And yet your pitch is basically a perfect match for her "list". Why God? Whyyyy?
- 18. *When you can't even because, Oh My God, THEY WANT YOUR FULL MANUSCRIPT!*  
This actually happened to me. It can happen to you.

The pain is real, fellow-writers, as well as excruciatingly delicious. Stay tuned for more pain as it unfolds.

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/lauren-cahn/18-things-only-novel-writ\\_b\\_8134394.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/lauren-cahn/18-things-only-novel-writ_b_8134394.html)



### WRITING AS SOUP

A question after returning from the Farmers' Market laden with vegetables on an August morning:



"How is writing like making a pot of vegetable soup?"

Answer:

It is a creative, satisfying process, utilizing fresh and colorful ingredients, selectivity, vision, planning, organization, focus, time, careful preparation, perseverance, patience, determination, energy, enough space, enough spice, enough skills, the right tools, judicious decisions, chopping, cutting, seasoning, adjusting, simmering, nurture, luck, and, after all that, stopping at just the right time, selling to the critics, and waiting and hoping for everyone's approval and enjoyment on just the right night!

Patty Northlich  
August 10, 2015

