

# WAG Digest

## Volume 13—Issue 4

### Creating Individual Voices and Fictional Settings That Feel Real

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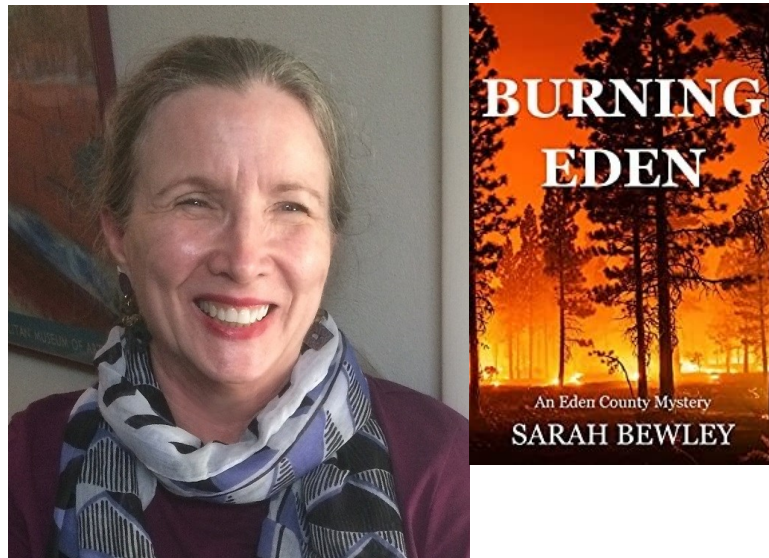
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Join us Sunday, August 13, 2023, at the Millhopper Library, 3145 NW 43rd St., Gainesville FL. From 2:30 to 4:00 pm for a presentation by author Sarah Bewley.

Every character in your story/novel should have an individual voice. How do you find this voice and keep it consistent throughout your work? Voices with individual word choices and rhythms of speech are as important as giving your readers an image of that individual. How do you make those decisions? Are there any tricks to the trade?

When generating a fictional place to put your characters into, how do you anchor it to reality so that the reader feels as if the place can be found on a map? What if you want to write about a place unrecognizable to the people who live there? Bewley will discuss how the writer can manipulate both maps and landscapes yet create places that read as real.

She is a Florida mystery novelist and playwright who has had many “firsts.” She was the first woman to ever win the McClaren Comedy Prize at the Midland Community Theater in Midland, Texas. She was the first to win the Dayton Playhouse FutureFest new plays competition with a play that only received a staged reading and the first playwright to ever be asked to be the “Playwright in Residence” at the Alliance Repertory Company.

She also won the 2012 William F. Deeck-Malice Domestic Grant for Unpublished Writers for her work in progress, *Burning Eden*, which is now available. A book signing will follow her presentation.

Find out more about Bewley on her website: <https://www.sarahbewley.com/>

# Cracking the Story Code™ – presented by Cassie Selleck

**September 10, 2:30 pm - 4:00 pm**

**September 10, 2023  
from 2:30 p to 4 pm.**

Millhopper Branch, Alachua County Libraries  
3145 NW 43rd St.  
Gainesville, FL 32606



Cassie Dandridge Selleck, author of an Amazon bestseller [The Pecan Man](#), will present a program for writers on the basics of the Story Code™. Please join us on Sunday, September 10, 2023, at 2:30 pm at the Millhopper Branch of the Alachua County Public Library.

How do you predict the success of a novel or play? Is it even possible? What makes a good story?

If you've been writing for a while, you've undoubtedly learned how plot drives a story. And, yes, plot is important. However, according to researcher Katherine J. Farmer, the most accurate way to predict the appeal of a story to a national audience lies in the role functions of the characters.

The Story Code™ is a system of narrative analysis discovered, developed, and substantiated by Farmer through extensive research. While a deep analysis of a particular work is complex, the basics of the system are relatively simple and incredibly helpful to writers.

Unlike the classic plot mountain and other structure-based writing methods, the Story Code™ does not focus on plot, event structures, or archetypal patterns like [the hero's journey](#). Instead, this system's character-centered lens reveals structures that focus on relationships and their conflicting power dynamics. A key finding in Farmer's research is that **story is all about power**.

Things to consider include:

- Who *has* the power in the story and who *wants* it?
- What are characters willing to do to get or keep power?
- How does power shift over the course of the story?
- How does the power balance change at the end of the story?

(cont. next page)



## **Cracking the Story Code™ – presented by Cassie Selleck - cont.**



### **THE TRUTH ABOUT GRACE** CASSIE DANDRIDGE SELLECK



The Story Code™ shows you how to track the power and harness it for the good of your story.

In addition to character functions, Selleck will discuss the importance of identifiable themes within each story. Farmer's research found that when the theme was not clear or not easy to state, the work received low ratings in appeal and quality. Writers often debate the importance or relevance of theme, but the findings affirm its central nature.

Selleck will talk about the impact of the audience's emotional response to the end of the story.

She will also discuss how the kind of hero who emerges will determine the story's genre. Each genre of story comes with a pattern. Understanding these patterns helps writers decide what kinds of stories they want to create, and it can provide a roadmap on how to get there.

In addition to *The Pecan Man*, Selleck has written three other novels of character-driven Southern Fiction. She holds a BFA in Creative Writing from Goddard College and a Master of Arts in Communication and Storytelling from East Tennessee State University. She currently teaches Public Speaking at the University of South Carolina but still makes her home on the Suwannee River in Mayo, Florida.

*\*W\*R\*I\*T\*E\**

## **Happy Birthday Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings!**

Join the birthday celebration of Florida's most famous writer as she turns 127 on Saturday, August 5.

From 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., you can enjoy live fiddle music and cake with the legendary mango ice cream from Rawlings' classic cookbook.

At noon, join the special walk-through tour of Rawlings' historic Cross Creek farmhouse.

Free with \$3.00 per vehicle park admission.

Marjorie Rawlings Historic State Park, 18700 CR 325, Cross Creek, Florida. For more information, phone (352) 466-3672.





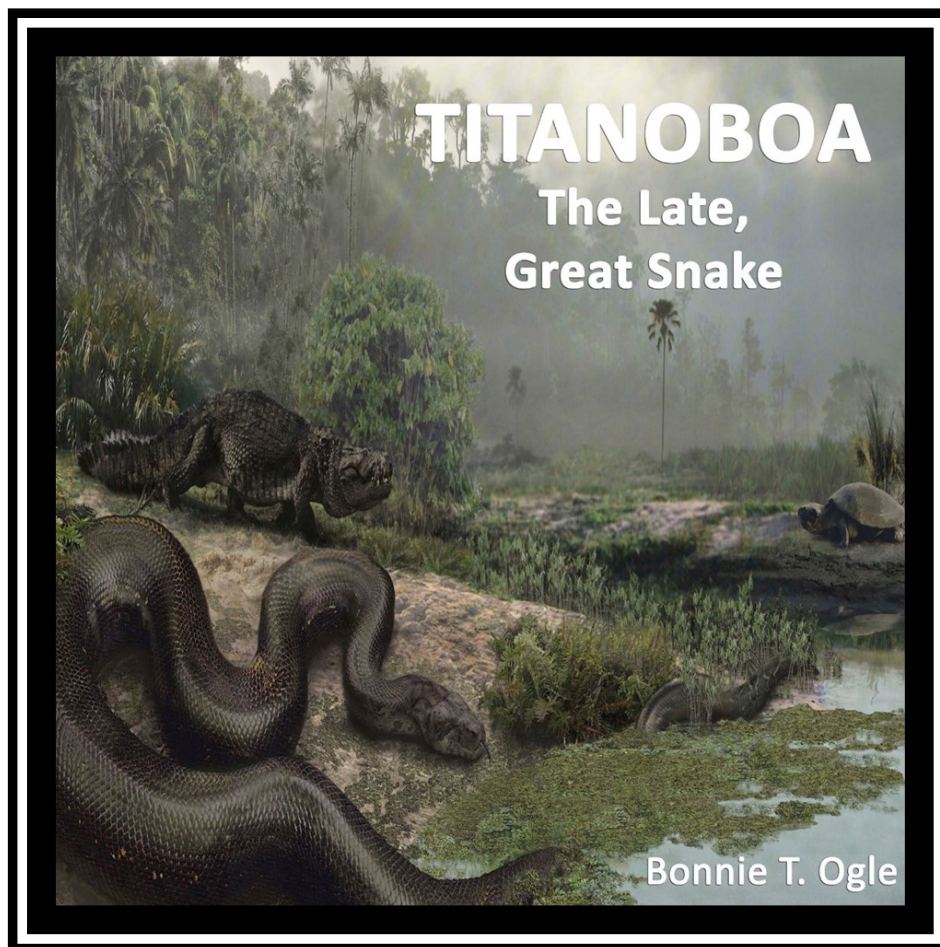
# WAG BRAGS

**Multiple Writers Alliance  
members have been selected as  
Semi-Finalists for the 2023  
Royal Palm Literary Award  
Competition. Congratulations!**



From Bonnie Ogle—

Just notified TITANOBOA, THE LATE GREAT SNAKE is a semifinalist for the Royal Palm Literary Award, chapter book division!



Her book is available on Amazon here:

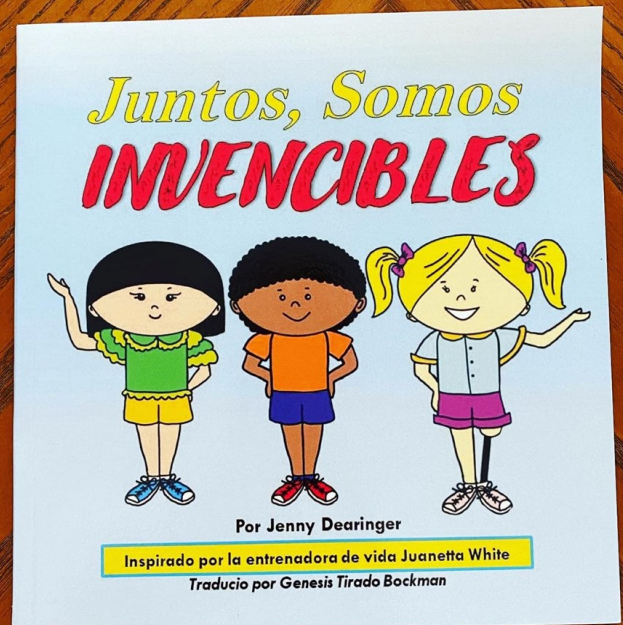
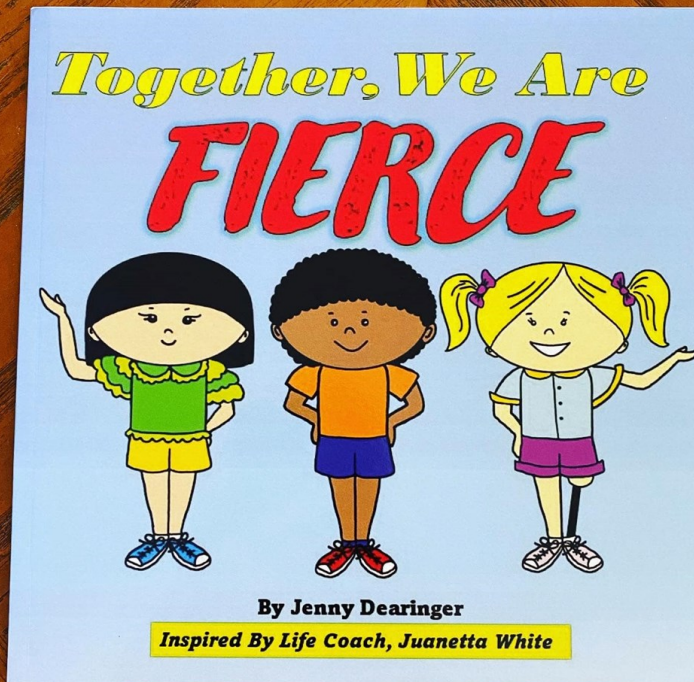
<https://www.amazon.com/Titanoboa-Great-Snake-Bonnie-Ogle/dp/1734050039/>



# WAG BRAGS

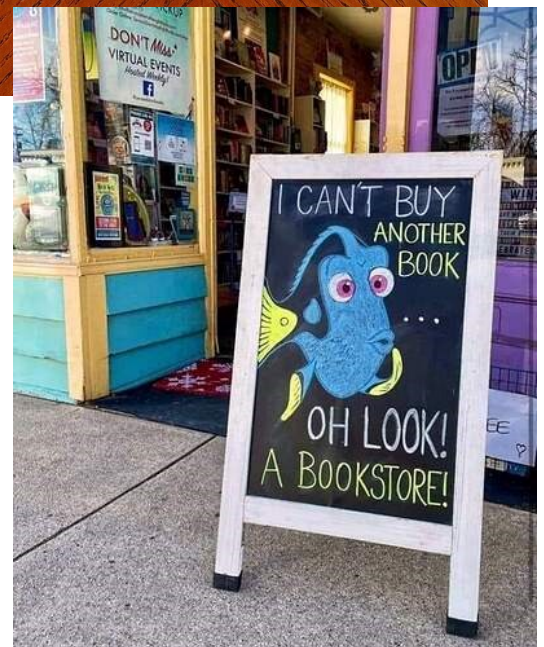
From Jenny Dearing:

Jenny is a Semi-Finalist in the Florida Writers Association's Royal Palm Literary Competition! A big thank you to Juanetta White for her inspiration. Thank you to Genesis Bockman for her Spanish translation. And thank you to Jenny's writing groups at the Writers Alliance of Gainesville and SCBWI for their marvelous editing and support.



Jenny's books are available here:

<https://www.amazon.com/Together-Are-FIERCE-Jenny-Dearing/dp/1946785482/>



## WAG BRAGS

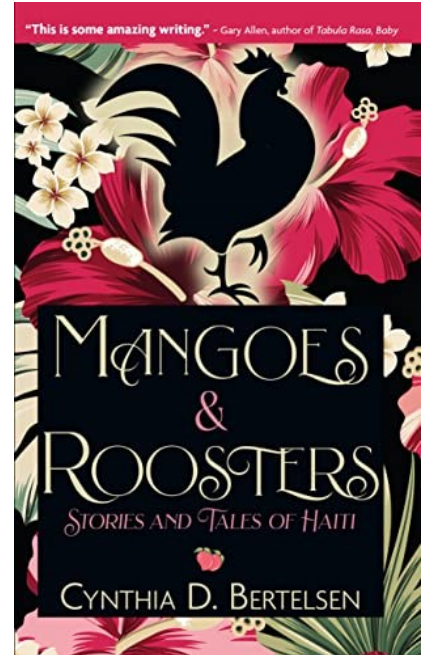
And from Cynthia Bertelsen,

Thrilling news! My book of short stories - "Mangoes & Roosters: Stories and Tales of Haiti" - has been named a semi-finalist for the 2023 Royal Palm Literary Award Competition in the Prose Anthology category.

Cynthia's book is available here:

<https://www.amazon.com/Mangoes-Roosters-Stories-Tales-Haiti/dp/173455794X/>

*\*W\*R\*I\*T\*E\**



Pat Caren, writing as Marie Q Rogers, was also a Royal Palms semi-finalist, for her short story, "The Legend of Mellington Swamp." This is her second year in a row as a semi-finalist in this category—last year, she was a semi-finalist for her short story, "The Family Plot" which was then published in the 2023 Eckerd Review.

And congratulations to Pat for winning another award— As she explains:

"Also, my novel *Trials by Fire* won a 2022 Firebird Award in the Coming of Age category." Her book is available here:

<https://www.amazon.com/Trials-Fire-Marie-Rogers-ebook/dp/B083B51XBH/>



She is also publishing "*Notebooks Hidden in an Abandoned House*" on Kindle Vella:

Her Kindle work is available here.

<https://www.amazon.com/Notebooks-Hidden-Abandoned-House/dp/B0C8K1FZGT/>



## WAG BRAGS

And from Robin Collison:

Happy news, the opening story in book one of my four book series, *The Fine Art Club of Shrimpboat Key*, has been named a semi-finalist in the 2023 Royal Palms Literary Award contest!



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And finally, Karen White Porter is also a semi-finalist—

“Hooray! Thank you to all the friends, family, and fellow writers that have encouraged me! My book, ‘I Feel Afraid When I See a Spider’ is a semi finalist!”

**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE TALENTED WRITERS FROM OUR AREA WHO HAVE BEEN HONORED BY THE ROYAL PALMS AWARDS. WE ARE SO PROUD OF ALL OF YOU!**

# WAG BRAGS

Former WAG President Kimberley Mullins is having an original stage play produced in multiple places— If you'd like to attend "Single Black Female in the Navy," check out this event coming up August 19, 2023 at 3:pm at the Acrosstown Repertory Theatre here in Gainesville.

## WAG BRAGS

**Premiere FUNDRAISER**  
**August 19th @ 3pm**  
 Creekside Mall  
 3501 SW 2nd Ave. Suite O  
 Gainesville, FL 32607

**Acrosstown Repertory Theatre**

Tickets  
 on Sale for Fundraiser event @  
**Eventbrite**  
 Across Town Repertory Theatre

WRITTEN BY: KIM MULLINS  
 Showcasing a Vignette of the Original Play

Empowerment, Triumph, Reliance.

**SINGLE BLACK FEMALE IN THE NAVY**

WRITTEN BY K.E. MULLINS  
 A coming-of-age story of a single, Black female in the Navy. During it all, she falls in love.

Full Stageplay  
 Showcased at  
 Tampa Bay  
 Theatre Festival  
 Sept. 2 at 6pm  
 Tickets on sale  
 k.Mullins.shop

Instagram Sbfm\_play

**JOIN US!**

## Date and time

Saturday, August 19 · 3 - 5pm EDT

Tickets here:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/single-black-female-in-the-navy-tickets-679652768727?>



# WAG BRAGS

## Join Poet Lola Haskins for Her Upcoming Book Launch

What: Reading/ Launch for new poetry collection,  
*Homelight* (Charlotte Lit Press, 2023)

When: Saturday, September 30th at 2PM.

Where: Headquarters Library Meeting Room A

Miscellaneous: Books (cover price \$18, launch price \$15) will  
be available as will signings (\$0). Cash or Checks, please.

### Lola's Bio:

*Homelight* is Lola Haskins' fourteenth collection of poetry. The one previous to that—*Asylum: Improvisations on John Clare* (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2019)—was featured in the NY Times Sunday Magazine. Past honors include the Iowa Poetry Prize, two NEAs, four Florida Individual Artist Fellowships, two Florida Book Awards, narrative poetry prizes from *Southern Poetry Review* and *New England Review/Breadloaf Quarterly*, a Florida Eden prize for environmental writing, and the Emily Dickinson prize from the Poetry Society of America. She also serves as a chancellor for the Florida State Poets Association.



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Past president of WAG, author K. E. Mullins reads from her second novel, *In the Company of Strangers*, from The Friends and Family Connection series, at Gainesville's Civic Media Center. (from 2021).

## WAG BRAGS

Hurray, the Sunshine State Book Festival is coming around again!



The [2024 Sunshine State Book Festival](#) will be held at the Hilton University of Florida Conference Center. The planning committee is looking to fill these positions:

- **Chairperson** who can provide leadership and outreach into the community
- **Registrar** who will follow up with authors after they register online to confirm registration and ensure they provided the required information (bio, photo, etc.)
- **Volunteer Coordinator** who can recruit individuals to fill positions on the committee and work with volunteers at the festival.
- **Photographer** to take photos at the festival

If you are interested in any of these positions, have ideas for other ways you can help, or wish to attend the planning meetings, please send an email to Pat Caren at [SunshineStateBookFestival@writersalliance.org](mailto:SunshineStateBookFestival@writersalliance.org).

Registration is now open for WAG members. The 2023 festival filled up in August last year. **Don't miss out! Register for the 2024 festival today!**



# WAG BRAGS

## LOOKING FOR BLOG POSTS

The Writers Alliance is pleased to offer blog posts by e-mail. Want to receive them? To subscribe to this free blog, scroll to the bottom of the [website's home page](#), **[www.writersalliance.org](http://www.writersalliance.org)** and sign up on the right.

Fill in the blanks with your email address and name. This information will be used only to send you a new post, biweekly or monthly. You may, of course, cancel at any time. More than 100 articles have been posted on our Website, and they are archived there. To the left of the "Sign up" form (see below) is a list of topics of articles that you may read at any time. On "Editing," for example, there are 10 articles. On "How to," there are 50!

**A big thanks to WAG members who contributed articles. If you have not written one, why not?**

<p><b>Blog Topics</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Editing (10)</li> <li>• Grammar (2)</li> <li>• Hometowne Quill (10)</li> <li>• How To (50)</li> <li>• Legal Issues (1)</li> <li>• Marketing (11)</li> <li>• NaNoWriMo (3)</li> <li>• Poetry (3)</li> <li>• Publishing (15)</li> <li>• Volunteering (7)</li> <li>• WAG Membership (16)</li> <li>• Writer's Craft (92)</li> <li>• Writer's Life (47)</li> <li>• Writing Groups (10)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Sign up for WAG Blog Updates</b></p> <p><b>Email Address*</b></p> <input type="text"/> <p><b>First Name</b></p> <input type="text"/> <p><b>Last Name</b></p> <input type="text"/> <p><small>* = required field</small></p> <p><b>SUBSCRIBE</b></p>
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## WAG Brags

### BLOG OPPORTUNITIES

All of us have knowledge and unique experiences that could benefit fellow writers. Perhaps you have recently read a book on writing that you would like to recommend. You could write a book review and tell others how the book might benefit them.

Please think about this, and send your ideas for blog posts -- or a finished piece -- to the [Hogtowne Quill editor](#) for consideration. You will, of course, want to review the [Blogging Guidelines](#), which discuss the number of words, photos, links, etc. Articles in the *Hogtowne Quill* may be cited in your CV/ résumé in the same way you would a short story, essay, or any other writing.

A special thanks to Cynthia Bertlesen who, as editor for many, many months, brought new life to WAG's blog. We hope to see more articles written by her.

We now welcome Tamm Walters as the *Hogtowne Quill* editor. She is the



former blog editor for the Riverside Public Library Adult Summer Reading Program in California and a former fiction editor of [So to Speak](#), a literary journal. She also served for four years as a Still Photographic Specialist in the United States Air Force. She says Mister Rogers is her hero. And her favorite food is wine.

Tamm has already made an improvement in the blogging process by suggesting a website plugin that lets contributors see their blog posts before the articles go public.

If you need ideas for *your* post, check out the topics on these two sites:

<http://writerswrite.co.za/30-inspiring-blog-post-ideas-for-writers> and <https://writersalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/Topic-Ideas-for-Your-Blog-Post.pdf>



## WAG Brags



Congratulations to Ronnie Lovler for being a contest winner along with other Mainstreet Daily News Writers in the Florida Press Contest.

### Florida Press contest honors Mainstreet writers

Lovler's winning story "[Confronting the caregiving crisis](#)" was the first story in Mainstreet Daily News' ongoing Aging Matters series. The series, which is independently reported but underwritten through Elder Options, focuses on issues that affect area seniors.

Lovler, who was a fellow in the 2022 Age Boom Academy, has published pieces in the series on such topics as [aging in place](#), [elder fraud](#), [senior travel](#) and [volunteerism](#). Her monthly series continues to shine a light on the complexities of growing older.

Information about the contest and the winners is available here:

<https://www.mainstreetdailynews.com/business/florida-press-contest-honors-mainstreet-writers>

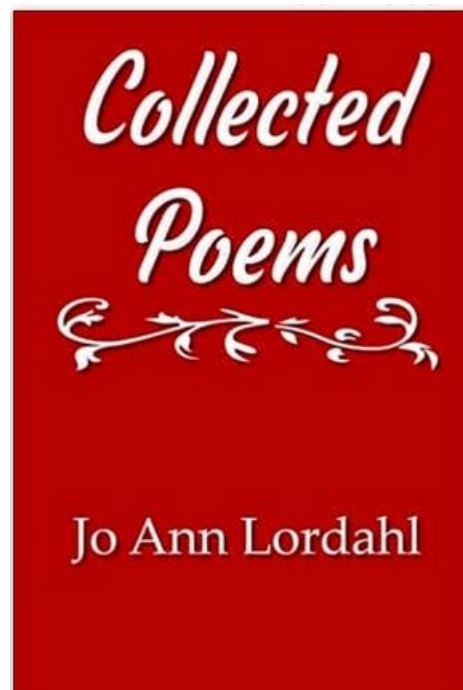
*\*W\*R\*I\*T\*E\**

Check out Jo Ann Lordahl's new collection of poetry, available on Amazon.

Congratulations, Jo Ann.

You can get your copy, here:

<https://www.amazon.com/Collected-Poems-Jo-Ann-Lordahl/dp/B0BW344T4H>



# POINT OF VIEW

## From The Writers College

Every story is told from a particular point of view. It is the reader's way "in," enabling them to experience the world they are reading about. When the point of view shifts without warning, it takes the reader out of the action. Not only does it disrupt their experience, but it can confuse them about what is taking place in your story.

Let's take a look at what point of view is, and how to avoid the common point of view mistakes beginner fiction writers make.

### What exactly is point of view?

Put simply, it is the perspective through which the story is told. The point of view that you choose is important because it's the lens through which your reader experiences the story.

The three primary points of view are:

- **First person:** The narrator is a character in the story, describing events to the reader. The pronoun used here is "I". Example: "I went to the pool today."
- **Second person:** The story is told from the perspective of "you". This is fairly rare in fiction, but it does happen. Think back to those *Choose Your Own Adventure* books we all loved in primary school. Example: "You went to the pool today."
- **Third person:** The narrator is outside of the action, describing what is happening to a character (or characters) within the story. The pronouns used are "he/she/it". Example: "She went to the pool today".

Third person narration is done in two ways:

- o **Limited:** The narrator only knows what the POV character knows, and only has access to the POV character's thoughts and emotions.
- o **Omniscient:** The narrator is "all knowing". Just as the name suggests, the God-like narrator knows everything about all events and characters at all times.

### Why is a story's point of view important?

In a [guest post on the Writer's Digest Blog](https://www.writersdigest.com/write-better-fiction/point-view-important-novel-writers) (<https://www.writersdigest.com/write-better-fiction/point-view-important-novel-writers>), Joseph Bates, author of *Writing Your Novel Start to Finish*, wrote that the point of view is the basic foundation of the reader's relationship with a story. "Your goal in selecting a point of view is not simply finding a way to convey information," he says, "but telling it the right way—making the world you create understandable and believable."

When done effectively, the point of view you choose can accomplish 3 things:

1. Completely immersing the reader in your fictional world.
2. Tight control over the flow of information, enabling you to create suspense and tension in your story.
3. Sympathy and empathy for your POV character(s). When a reader sympathizes with a character, they want to keep on reading to find out how that character's story ends.

(cont. on next page)



### **How do you choose the right point of view?**

It comes down to what type of story you are trying to tell and what message you want to get across.

You can tell your story from any character's perspective; just ask yourself how much information you want to give the reader and how this will affect their interpretation of events.

For example, if you're writing a courtroom drama and you want your readers to sympathize with the accused, then you will tell it from their perspective, not from the prosecutor's point of view.

### **Can you switch between multiple points of view?**

Bear in mind that you can change the point of view to give a broader overview of the story. For example, you can tell a story from the point of view of the person on trial in addition to the perspectives of the judge and the lawyers. This would only work in a novel or novella, of course. Very rarely would this be possible in a short story where your word count is too limited to allow for competing points of view.

If you decide to switch between multiple characters in your story, use caution. Always make it clear to your reader when you've changed perspective, and whose point of view you're using. To show that you have changed point of view, you can either use a decorative motif, a double paragraph break, or a chapter break to indicate that the scene has changed, and the point of view has changed along with it.

Changing the point of view can have its advantages. It allows you to give different versions of the same story. It can help you lead your reader towards a well-crafted twist in your tale. You can add suspense by feeding the reader bits of information from different sources, and then connecting all the threads together at the end. However, you need to tread carefully when switching between multiple points of view.

### **How to avoid confusing your readers**

Mistakes with point of view can have disastrous effects on your story, but they are easy to avoid if you follow these rules:

#### **Stick to one perspective at a time**

Readers can easily become confused when you change your narrative point of view in a story.

The best way to avoid confusion is to stick to one perspective for each scene. If you want to change perspectives, make it clear to the readers that you are doing so by adding spaces between paragraphs and making sure that it is obvious from the start which character or perspective you are using. Don't be afraid to state the obvious and use names. Make sure to do so from the beginning of each scene.

- Avoid jumping between characters unnecessarily

Often a conflict can arise between using a particular point of view and trying to show the reader what's happening in the grand scheme of the story. In an effort to show your readers all that is going on in a particular scene, you may end up jumping between characters in order to describe everything. All this does is complicate the story and confuse your readers. What's worse, you run the risk of boring the reader because you're likely:

**Continued on next page.**

## Point of View — Cont.

1. Giving a lot of information away – eliminating tension.
2. Repeating things that your reader already knows.

In an excerpt from her book, *Writing the Intimate Character* (which can be found [here https://janefriedman.com/using-multiple-points-view/](https://janefriedman.com/using-multiple-points-view/)), Jordan Rosenfeld demystifies how to work with multiple POVs. She makes three key points:

- Don't repeat a single scene from multiple points of view unless that scene offers something new that will drive the plot forward.
- Don't use peripheral characters as tools to make exposition or information dumps in an effort to explain everything to your reader.
- Keep your character switching consistent.

Rosenfeld advises, “Many writers use a formula wherein each co-protagonist gets a POV chapter or scene in a set rotating order: Protagonist A, Protagonist B, Protagonist C, all the way through the novel. Others might structure their scenes so one character appears more often than the others: A, B, A, C, A, B, A, C, or even A, A, B, C, A, A, B, C.”

Essentially, pick a formula and stick to it.

- Keep your pronouns consistent

A common error with point of view occurs when writers don't pay attention to pronouns.

The scenario often goes like this: you start out writing in the first person, using pronouns like I, my, me, etc. In the next paragraph, you accidentally switch to using “you,” the second person perspective.

Example:

“I now find myself in uncharted terrain. The rain is sluicing down the car windows, the glass already so fogged up that the trees and fence posts outside have been reduced to black shadows that loom ominously close as I drive past.

“Suddenly, due to an error of judgment and plain old stubbornness, you realize that you are lost.”

It might seem bizarre that writers could change perspective like this, without noticing that their lines now barely make sense, but it happens all the time.

If you have difficulty sticking to one point of view, imagine that you're the character whose point of view you are using. Think of yourself as playing a role in a production, like an actor. Think of what that character can see and know. They can imagine what another character is thinking, but cannot know for sure.

They can see what is going on around them but this is influenced by their own beliefs and opinions. Pay close attention to what is possible and what is likely to happen in a scene when told from one character's point of view. It is not possible for them to know everything about everyone, and it is unlikely that they will be describing their own cherry red lips unless they have cause to do so. she is revealing to the reader. If not, then you might be making a mistake with your use of point of view.

**Continued on next page.**



## Point of View — Cont.

Bestselling author Joe Bunting put it best when he said:

“[W]hen point of view goes wrong—and believe me, it goes wrong often—you threaten whatever trust you have with your reader and fracture their suspension of disbelief.”

Remember, point of view is an essential part of your story’s foundation. Just like a building, a story without structural integrity is likely to collapse in on itself.



### H R Green

**H R Green** is a writer of short stories and has a passion for teaching Creative Writing.

She recently won the 2011 SA Writers’ College Short Story Competition with her story “The Tokoloshe”. With a BA Degree in English Literature from the University of the Witwatersrand (2007) and an Hons BA Degree from the University of South Africa (2009) she is about to embark on her Masters Degree. She completed the Short Story Writing Course at the Writers College in 2010.



# Classes and Conferences

Award winning author Susie Baxter will teach another Write-Your-Memoir course at Santa Fe College in September. Registration begins August 9.

If you wish to write about your life for yourself, your family, or the world, this course is for you. Participants will write about everyday life, the people who influenced them, and life-changing events. Can't remember the details? Handouts and charts will aid recall. You and your classmates will have a chance to share stories in class, although sharing is not mandatory. We will also discuss how to self-publish your memoir.

## ENG0048.1R3

4 Saturdays, starts 9/9, 10:00 a.m. to Noon

SF - NW CAMPUS (Not by Zoom)

FEE \$49.00

NOTE: No senior waivers. Bring pen and paper for notes. Class is limited to 15.

Beginning August 9, you may register online or by calling Santa Fe at (352) 395-5193 between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

If you have questions, contact Susie through her website: <https://susiebaxter.com/home/>.

*\*W\*R\*I\*T\*E\**

## Atlanta Writers Conference

<https://atlantawritersconference.com/>



## **Registration Now Open for Atlanta Writers Conference:**

Our 29th conference offers an in-person experience for all activities—critiques and pitches, a workshop, Q&A panels, free talks, an award ceremony, a book fair & more—and a virtual option for agent/editor meetings.

**November 3— 4, 2023**

## Calls for Submissions

### The Pensieve Open for Submissions from Emerging Writers

**Deadline:** Year-round

*The Pensieve* is seeking fiction, creative nonfiction, and poetry from emerging writers. We believe that when an author has artfully constructed a literary work, the readers can become immersed—almost unconsciously—in the world and life the author has conjured through mere words on a page. We are looking for previously unpublished pieces that are compelling, immersive, and beautifully written. No reading fee is required. For full guidelines and instructions, visit [www.thepensieve.site/p/submit.html](http://www.thepensieve.site/p/submit.html).

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### Kings River Review Call for 2-Year College Student Submissions

**Deadline:** October 15, 2023

The *Kings River Review* publishes artwork, creative nonfiction, short fiction, and poetry of current 2-year **community college students**. Submission Deadlines: March 15 for the spring issue and October 15 for the fall issue. Submission requirements: up to 5 pieces of artwork and photography sent as .JPEG files; creative nonfiction and fiction of up to 3,000 words; and up to 5 poems. Go to [kings-riverreview.com](http://kings-riverreview.com) for full submission guidelines.



## Calls for Submissions

### **The New Verse News Seeks Current Events Poetry**

**Deadline:** Year-round

Since 2005, [The New Verse News](https://newversenews.blogspot.com/) has covered the news of the day with poems on issues, large and small, international and local. It relies on the submission of poems (especially those of a politically progressive bent) by writers from all over the world. The editors update the website every day with a poetic take on a current and specific headline. See the website for guidelines and examples. Then paste your non-simultaneous submission and a brief bio in the text of an email (no attachments, please) to [nvneditor\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:nvneditor(at)gmail.com). Write "Verse News Submission" in the subject line of your email.

([https://newversenews.blogspot.com/?utm\\_source=newpages&utm\\_medium=classified&utm\\_campaign=current\\_events\\_poetry\\_cfs&utm\\_content=new\\_verse\\_news](https://newversenews.blogspot.com/?utm_source=newpages&utm_medium=classified&utm_campaign=current_events_poetry_cfs&utm_content=new_verse_news))

*\*W\*R\*I\*T\*E\**



### **Plant-Human Quarterly Seeks Poems and Essays for Upcoming Issues**

**Deadline:** Year-round

*Plant-Human Quarterly* reads year-round. We seek unpublished or published poetry and essays that explore the myriad ways writers manifest their relationship to the botanical world—whether through heavily researched

pieces, keen observation, or more intuitive ways of knowing—that attempt to communicate across boundaries and approach a plant's-eye-view of the world. Send no more than 5 poems or an essay of no more than 1500 words (flash essay or essay excerpt) in a single word document.

Submission guidelines:

[otherwisecollective.com/phq-submissions](http://otherwisecollective.com/phq-submissions).



## Calls for Submissions



### Exploration and Catharsis: Mental Illness and The Awakenings Review

**Deadline:** Year-round

*The Awakenings Review* is an award-winning literary magazine committed to publishing poetry, short stories, nonfiction, and photography by writers, poets, and artists who have had experience with mental illness: either in themselves, family members, or friends. Located in the Chicago area but international in scope, our print publication is one of the nation's leading journals of this genre.

We're currently accepting submissions for our Spring 2024 issue. While we encourage works of recovery and healing, at *The Awakenings Review* we are not averse to providing a forum and liberating experience of all manners of work. Our pages have been described as "profoundly honest." Please read our submission guidelines at [www.AwakeningsProject.org](http://www.AwakeningsProject.org).

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From local author and WAG Member Mallory O'Connor:

Consider Atmosphere Press

By Mallory M. O'Connor

As the author/co-author of nine books, I've had an opportunity to compare the quality/professionalism of five different publishers from the University Press of Florida through Archway Publishing, iUniverse Press, Book Baby and, most recently, Atmosphere Press. They have all had their pluses/minuses, but I've been especially impressed with Atmosphere. Although they are a small outfit with pretty standard hybrid press processes, I've found them easier to work with and more "user friendly" than other publishers I've worked with. Their team is very responsive, and I never felt I was "just another" author. The team members took my questions seriously and always responded promptly and carefully and I developed a genuine rapport with several individuals. They produced an excellent finished product. Since my most recent book, *"The Kitchen and the Studio"* (co-authored with my husband John), was an *art book* as well as a cook-book/memoir, we were especially concerned about the quality of the reproductions and the overall design of the book. Atmosphere did a great job!

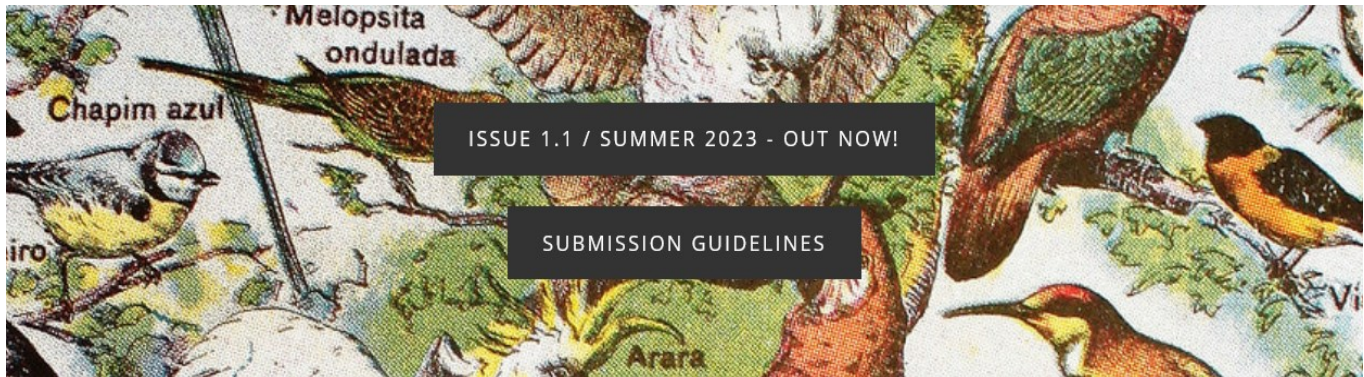
If you're interested in working with a small, friendly and quality-oriented publisher, I'd suggest that you give Atmosphere a try.

See more info here: <https://www.facebook.com/atmospherepress/>

## Some New Places to Submit

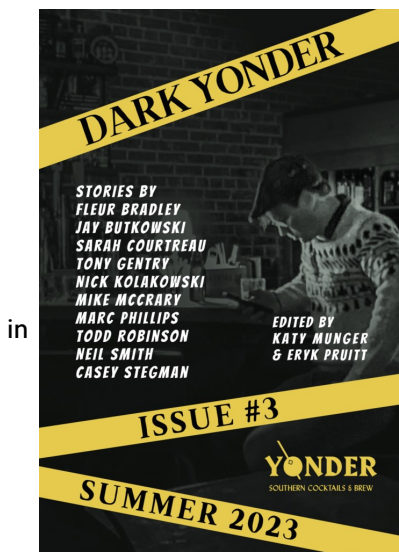
### The Maul Magazine

They want stories (100-3,000 words), comics, and art – horror and other speculative fiction for younger readers. They have detailed guidelines, including, “...even though our target audience skews younger, we’re really just looking for great writing. Our focus is on horror but we’ll take other genres. In fact, the editors prefer stories that are a mix of genres. You’re more likely to be published if you give us fantasy or sci-fi mixed with horror. We’ll also take literary work, though please realize that, given our clientele and organizational goals, it can be a hard sell. We enjoy pulp fiction. That means we look for stories that pop. Exaggeration, melodrama, impossibly imaginative settings, and vivid imagery are encouraged. Bring us something that really jumps off the page. Be as over-the-top as you like. If you’re a more subtle writer, submit anyway.” They also accept reprints. They take submissions from writers 15 and older (see guidelines). Pay is \$0.08/word for fiction. Watch for their next submission period. Details [here](https://www.themaulmag.com/submissions/). (<https://www.themaulmag.com/submissions/> )



### Twin Bird Review

Their [website](https://www.twinbirdreview.com/about.html) (<https://www.twinbirdreview.com/about.html>) says, this is “a biannual online literary publication for imaginative fiction, poetry, essays, art, and comics. We publish work that captures our imagination and offers new perspectives on the world around us. We love the metaphorical, the speculative, the fantastical, the whimsical, and the strange. We value energy, passion, and vibrancy. We care less about perfection and more about sincerity; less about looking good and more about authenticity.” They accept prose (up to 3,000 words), poetry (up to 5 poems), comics and graphic stories, and art. They are reading submissions for their second issue; see the submission call on [Twitter](#). Their guidelines are here: <https://www.twinbirdreview.com/submissions.html>



### Dark Yonder

They want neo-noir stories, and they publish four times a year. “There are no setting requirements, but all stories submitted must be loosely categorized as “neo-noir.” We’re not looking for your grandfather’s noir fiction. We’re looking for new, unique voices and interpretations of dark literary fiction (crime, horror, speculative lit, etc) that fit into our rapidly evolving world. Everyone is well versed the fiction that America is raised on; we’re looking for fiction that takes us... yonder” Their sweet spot is for fiction of 3,000-5,000 words – they do not want flash fiction. They pay \$50. Details [here](https://yonderbarnc.com/dark-yonder/) (<https://yonderbarnc.com/dark-yonder/> ) (scroll down).



## Contests



### **Gemini Magazine \$1,000 Flash Fiction Prize**

**Deadline:** August 31, 2023

Got a great short-short story? Win \$1,000 for a story of 1,000 words or less in the 15th annual Gemini Magazine Flash Fiction Contest. Second prize: \$100. Four honorable mentions: \$25 each. Entry fee: \$7. Any subject or style. Except for the word limit, we have no rules and are open to your most creative work, whether literary, noir, historical, sci-fi or any other category. All six finalists will be published online in the October/November 2023 issue of *Gemini*. Read previous winners and finalists online to see the wide variety of flash fiction we publish. [gemini-magazine.com/flash-fiction-contest-2023/](https://gemini-magazine.com/flash-fiction-contest-2023/)

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### **2023 New Women's Voices Chapbook Competition**

Ends on Sat, Sep 16, 2023 12:00 AM

A prize of \$1,500, royalty contract, and publication by Finishing Line Press is given annually for a poetry chapbook by a writer who identifies as a woman and has not yet published a full-length collection.

Submit a manuscript of 16 to 30 pages of poetry plus bio, title page, and acknowledgments with a \$20 entry fee by September 15, 2023.

We do allow hybrid manuscripts in addition to traditional poetry manuscripts: prose poetry or formal verse.

We do allow art to be included with the manuscript. Please follow page count guidelines. One page of art is equal to one page of poetry.

All entries are considered for publication.

Submit here: <https://finishinglinepress.submittable.com/submit/222378/2023-new-womens-voices-chapbook-competition>

## Contests

Submit here: <https://www.calyxpress.org/margarita-donnelly-prize/>

### **Margarita Donnelly Prize for Prose Writing**

**Prize:** \$500 cash prize. Winner will be published in CALYX Journal Vol. 34:3, Summer/Fall 2024. Winner and two finalists will receive a one-volume subscription to CALYX Journal and publication on CALYX's website.

**Dates:** July 1 – September 30, 2023, postmarked

**Final Judge:** Emily Withnall

Please submit up to 10,000 words of unpublished fiction or creative nonfiction. One piece of prose per submission. Simultaneous submissions are discouraged. The CALYX editorial collective reads all manuscripts first, then selects 5-10 finalists to send to the final judge.

For postal submissions: Please send single submission, cover letter with name and contact information, and \$20 reading fee (checks payable to CALYX, Inc.). Send materials to: CALYX, Inc.  
Margarita Donnelly Prize  
PO Box B  
Corvallis, OR 97339

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<https://indianareview.org/prizes/fiction-prize/>



## ***To Submit***

- **Remember to send one short story, up to 6k words.**
- **Entrant's name must not appear on the submission.**
- **A cover letter is not required.**
- **Each \$20 fee gets you a year-long subscription of the journal. International addressees, please add \$12 for postage (\$7 for addresses in Canada).**

FALL 2022 PRIZE JUDGE: ERIKA T. WURTH



**Writer's Alliance of Gainesville**  
*A not-for-profit Florida corporation*

P.O. Box 358396  
Gainesville/Florida/32635-8396  
[352-336-8062/wagmail@cox.net](mailto:wagmail@cox.net)



The **Writers Alliance of Gainesville (WAG)** promotes, encourages and supports aspiring and experienced regional writers. This goal is accomplished via **WAG** monthly meetings, public readings, ongoing small critique groups, a literary journal, writers' contests, and collaborations with schools and civic organizations to foster creative expression through the written word.

"If I waited  
for perfection,  
I would never  
write a word."

(Margaret Atwood)