



# Writing Right Newsletter

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## THE MYSTIQUE'S CRY

The next meeting in the SA Writers' Centre, 2nd Floor, 188 Rundle Street will be held at 6.30 pm on Friday, October 19th.

At the meeting we will launch Jennifer Benkhauser's book, *The Mystique's Cry* – a compilation of political, environmental and spiritual poetry.

**Plotting & Pizza Workshop** on Friday, October 12<sup>th</sup> at 6.30pm at 12 Sandford Street, Kensington Gardens. Bookings necessary.

**Writing Right Stall** at Partridge House, Literary Festival on Saturday, 27<sup>th</sup> October all day – being run by Pamela Rajkowski.

Critique Session on  
**SATURDAY**  
OCTOBER 6th  
at 12 Sandford St,  
Kensington Gdns  
(in cottage at rear)  
Ph: 8332 6085  
at 2.00pm

\*\*\*

Next Meeting on  
**FRIDAY**  
OCTOBER 19th  
at the SA Writers'  
Centre  
Rundle St,  
2<sup>nd</sup> floor above  
Cafe Buongiorno  
at 6.30pm

### INTRODUCING OUR NEW MARKETING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Patricia Adams, Diane Beer, Nicholas Fourikis, Barbara Fraser, Monica Hein, Pamela Moriarty, Chris Ostermann, Peter Salerno, Ros Werner & John Willanski.

**A HUGE THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME, EFFORT & CONTRIBUTIONS**

# NEWS FROM MEMBERS

## TALENTED MEMBERS

We have the most talented group of members – ever! This is no exaggeration.

**Fact:-** Members have published 39 books in less than two years – and more in the pipeline....that is a knockout statistic.

The following report is merely a small list of this month's achievements – we don't know if you don't tell us....send us details of your latest successes – let's share the news.

**David Mercer** – congratulations on winning the Wirra Wirra Writers Festival Short Story Award. David said he had never won a short story writing competition before and was delighted with the generous award in the adult category. He said, "... a very attractive anthology had been printed of the 20 best stories and the unusual trophy -- a simulated open book made of glass with the SA Writers' Festival logo on the front, was very well done."

**Ros Werner** has just won the BHA Peggy Donald Award 2006 for an article she wrote in the Better Hearing Australia Magazine last year, entitled "Standing Ovation for Live Theatre" where she reported her experience of attending a live-captioned performance of Bell Theatre Company's performance of Shakespeare's *Measure for Measure* in Canberra. (These awards are made annually at their national conferences - hence the time delay). Ros said, "The great thing now is that we are getting a captioned performance in every major city around Australia of the up coming *Dickens' Women* show with

Miriam Margolyes." ([www.dickenswomen.com](http://www.dickenswomen.com)) Adelaide's performance at 6.30 on Nov 6th is a captioned performance.

**Adrian Crawford** Sent this note, "I've had a very creative year. Overhauled my novella, *Night of the Stallion Moon* earlier in the year, shot my short film with me as writer / director. With a professional AD, professional cameraman, professional camera and about 20 crew, 8 cast, 30 extras it was run like a professional film set over 6 days. Now editing. Also overhauled my psychological thriller feature film script three times as well. There is a pitching competition for the big producer's conference in Queensland in a few weeks. Just got to finish a synopsis then... who knows, may have enough energy for one of the two remaining projects left in my back catalogue - one being *Secret Dinosaur* and the other 'Pilgrims Quest' a novel."

**Ross Duffy** - Short story 'A Natural Remedy' published in Issue 4 of *The Outpost*. Ross's amazing record of publishing is a tribute to his knowledge of short story outlets and his excellent standards of writing

**Jenny Benkhauser's** Book of poems *The Mystique's Cry* a compilation of political environmental and spiritual poetry being launched on 19<sup>th</sup> October 6.30 pm in the SA Writers' Centre.

**Pamela Rajkowski's** book, *Tracks of the Camelmen* going into yet another print run. Pamela is off to Western Australia for the launch

of one of her books..700 guests attending the launch.

**Jacqueline Coates** – Fabulous artist and talent writer is holding exhibitions and art classes in Sydney, Adelaide and Kapunda. Jacqueline is currently restoring a building in Kapunda to start a new gallery and studio. Check out her work... [www.jacquelinecoates.com](http://www.jacquelinecoates.com)  
Kapunda Landscape – One Day painting workshop, October Saturday October 27th. Paint two canvases in one day, two locations, picnic lunch provided and morning and afternoon tea. \$220 p.p.  
Adelaide Landscape, November Pate and Painting in the Park. Saturday November 10th \$220 p.p.  
Tel: 08 8566 3827 M. 0412 587 438

**Lynette Arden:** Poet/writer/artist has offered to show people how to set up a blog site (particularly Nicholas) after the next Saturday Critique session in The Cottage. Lynette has remarkable skills and has set up websites for many organisations including the Zoological Gardens Volunteers' site. <http://www.lynettearden.com> <http://www.bloglines.com/blog/Lynette-Arden> <http://diamond-cat.blogspot.com/> <http://www.bloglines.com/blog/lynettea-wildlife>

**Christine Ostermann** Sold 28 books in one meeting and took orders for more on her latest country trip. Her latest books are still soaring up the charts.

**Jennifer Di'ane** her latest book *Gypsy Rover* is out and a launch being planned.

# NEWS FROM CYNTHIA STERLING

## Report from RWA conference in Dallas

The spotlight on Steeple Hill and Love Inspired was presented by Associate Senior Editor Krista Stroeve and Editor Melissa Endlich. 2007 is the 10th anniversary of the program. In 2008 they'll publish 10 category books a month, in addition to multiple single titles each month. Many Steeple Hill authors are CBA bestsellers and have garnered numerous awards.

Melissa spoke first about Love Inspired Historical, Steeple Hill's newest line, launching in 2008. LI Historicals will publish two books a month - one western and one non-western setting each month. Inspirational readers seem to be more open to reading many different time periods. In addition to western settings, the editors are interested in all kinds of American settings - colonial, Civil War and post Civil War, all the way up through World War II. They're also interested in European settings and Biblical Fiction. Stories featuring missionaries in exotic locations are welcome. Stories may be dramatic and emotional, light-hearted, or suspenseful. But no matter the setting or story, there can be no explicit sensuality, graphic violence or language. Send submissions to Melissa or to assistant editor Jessica Alvarez. They are both actively acquiring for the line. 70,000 - 75,000 words.

Krista spoke about the Steeple Hill single title program. Like all Steeple Hill books, these stories are based on Christian values. They publish a wide variety of books - both contemporary and historical romance and women's fiction, romantic suspense and thrillers and relationship novels. They publish up to three titles each month. They look more for established authors for this line. First time authors usually start in Love Inspired and then move to the single title books.

Steeple Hill Café is Christian Chick Lit. The editors are not really looking for new authors here, as they have a full inventory. They prefer established authors for this line.

Love Inspired category does four books a month. These are strong,

character-driven inspirational romance, 55,000-60,000 words. They range from funny to heart-wrenching and feature men and women who find true love in a Christ-centered relationship. They're looking for stories set in smaller towns and cities, family-focused. Children are welcome in these stories. They're interested in complex stories with real conflicts. Situations may be dark and gritty. Characters may not start out as Christians but are by the end of the book.

Love Inspired has published some chick-lit within the line, but these are only be established LI authors. New authors should focus on romance stories.

Things that don't work as well: Hollywood settings, big city settings, sports, dancers.

Love Inspired Suspense expanded from two books a month to four books a month in February 2007. They are "very eagerly" looking for inventory. This is a great opportunity for new authors. Readers here are looking for "strong, highly dramatic, high-octane reads." There are very few things you can't do in these books - though violence is mostly off-screen. They'd love to see more CSI-type and legal-thriller type stories. The stories are 50 percent romance and 50 percent suspense. Both must be fully developed. 55,000 - 60,000 words

As part of Harlequin, Steeple Hill books are available all over the world in many languages. They're available in both Christian book stores, grocery stores, mass merchandisers, online, and through book clubs. They're also available as ebooks.

Turnaround time for unagented, unsolicited manuscripts is approximately three months. They do not accept complete unsolicited manuscripts. Query by mail or send the first three chapters and a synopsis of 5-8 pages. Guidelines are available <http://tinyurl.com/yvaqsua> - or go to <http://www.eharlequin.com> and click on the link to Writer's Guidelines at the bottom of the page.

## CRITIQUE SESSIONS & MEETING STRUCTURES

**There's a delicate balance in doing a critique of someone's work. We are all at different stages and write for different audiences.**

Our aim is to lift everyone's skills and help each other get published. So everyone in each group has the right to share equal time for reading and assessment.

Some just don't get a fair go. They are either shy, tentative about having their work assessed or just don't like pushing themselves forward. The result is sometimes a dreadful unbalance and a wasted night for some members.

We don't want to hear about your pet dog, your latest holiday, your professional standing or your latest flower arrangement.

We want to get down to the primary intention - doing a fair, thoughtful and kind critique in the short time available.

Sometimes the sessions are brilliant with remarkable outcomes. How can we lift the standards to make that the 'norm'?????

We welcome your suggestions.

Do you want changes?.....

Have you any suggestions?  
.....

What do you want from a critique session?.....

How can we help you personally to get your work critiqued better?.....

Any other suggestions on how the meetings could be constructed to better serve your needs?  
.....

We need feedback to plan meetings for 2008

Your opinions could be exactly what we need to make the group even more effective to help each other more.

Let us know please.

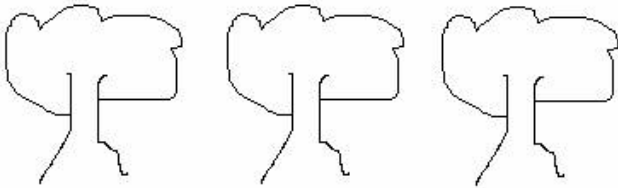
*Diane*

# IRISH MATHS TEST

*Disclaimer: Not intended to offend, Editor is half Irish!!*

An Irishman applied for a job on a construction site, but the foreman wouldn't hire him until he passed a simple maths test. Here is your first question, the foreman said. "Without using numbers, represent the number 9."

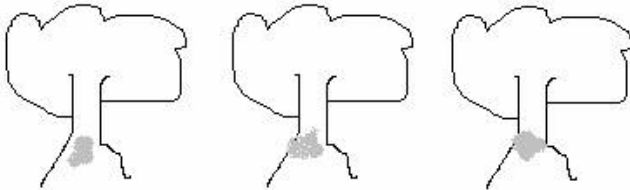
"Without numbers?" The Irishman says, "Dat is easy," and proceeded to draw three trees.



"What's this?" the boss asked.

"Ave you got no brain? Tree and tree and tree make nine," said the Irishman. "Fair enough," said the boss. "Here's your second question. Use the same rules, but this time the number is 99."

The Irishman stared into space for a while, then picked up the picture that he has just drawn and made a smudge on each tree. "Ere you go."



The boss scratched his head and said, "How on earth do you get that to represent 99?"

"Each of da trees is dirty now. So, it's dirty tree, and dirty tree, and dirty tree. Dat is 99."

The boss was getting worried that he's going to actually have to hire this Irishman, so he said, "All right, last question. Same rules again, but represent the number 100."

The Irishman stared into space some more, then he picked up the picture again and made a little mark at the base of each tree and says, "Ere you go. One hundred."



The boss looked at the attempt. "You must be nuts if you think that represents a hundred!"

The Irishman leaned forward and pointed to the marks at the base of each tree and said, "A little dog came along and crapped by each tree. So now you got dirty tree and a turd, dirty tree and a turd, and dirty tree and a turd, which makes one hundred."

"So, when do I start?"

It's New  
[www.writingright.com.au](http://www.writingright.com.au)

Love Books - Take a Look!

## Our Celebration Dinner



Thank God – You're Here!  
 "I'm overwhelmed – can't cope," but heroes Roger Gibbs and Nicholas Fourikis come to my rescue.



Forty of us celebrated the launch of our new website domain name. A great party! And a great outcome! I can't even begin to thank everyone who wrote messages for my treasured booklet.

Ten brave souls put their hands up to start our Marketing Committee. And they have already had their first successful meeting. Members of your Marketing Committee are:- **Patricia Adams, Diane Beer, Nicholas Fourikis, Barbara Fraser, Monica Hein, Pamela Moriarty, Chris Ostermann, Peter Salerno, Ros Werner, John Willanski.**



The committee is already drawing up promotional lists and planning future activities and they will welcome support from members as they announce events.

## REPORT ON JEFFREY DEAVER

On the evening of Thursday 23rd August, my daughter Jodie and I visited Dymock's book store at Westfield Marion to hear Jeffrey Deaver speak.

For those of you who may not know Jeffrey Deaver (JD), he is an international best selling author of twenty two crime novels. He specializes in writing about forensic crime and has sold millions of books world-wide. Books such as *The Bone Collector* (which was made into a movie); *The Coffin Dancer* and his latest best seller *The Sleeping Doll* (JD has just sold the film rights of this book to Warner Bros.)

JD comes from Chicago and began his working life as a journalist and then qualified as a corporate lawyer. Check him out further on [www.jeffreydeaver.com](http://www.jeffreydeaver.com)

He is in Australia for a national tour so Jodie and I seized the moment to meet him and listen, along with about 150 other attendees, to his pearls of wisdom on the process he puts into place to achieve his writing success. Here are some of the points he made during his hour long talk on "getting that book written."

### PHILOSOPHY

- ♦ You need a philosophy of writing.
- ♦ People don't read books to get to the middle, but to get to the end.

### IDEAS

- JD has a drink in hand and lets the ideas roll. He uses every day occurrences.

### OUTLINE

- He spends eight to nine months working on the outline of his book – perhaps 100 pages of point after point.
- He outlines every character
- Every clue
- Every red herring
- Every twist and turn and most importantly, **The Ending**. Readers

deserve a great ending and not to be disappointed.

### RESEARCH

- He has many quirky facts in his books
- He warns to be careful not to slow the book down with facts
- Write to be compelling, not just interesting
- Let your book ROCK!

### WRITE

- From all of this JD can write 600 pages of prose in two months
- He always writes too much
- First and second drafts are awful

### RE-WRITE

- Re-write, edit and polish until it's as good as it gets.
- Example that JD quoted from one of his books – *FIRST DRAFT* – *He ran along the twisting, turning tunnel, stumbling through the dusky, darkness into the arteries of hell.* – *RE-WRITE* – *He ran through the tunnel.*

### REJECTIONS

- Something one has to live with
- Consider it a speed hump – slows you down but doesn't stop you.
- Remember you are selling a product
- Listen to what you are told
- Don't be a prima donna

### PROMOTION

- Treat like a business
- Encourage feedback from your readers

**NOTE** – JD indicated that he is an un-disciplined person and yet

- He writes eight to ten hours a day
- Writes one book a year
- Stays in touch with people

I hope this give you a small insight into the life of this great writer.

**Chris Ostermann**

**Aka Christina Carlisle - Romance & Crime Writer**

## STALL REPORT



Our first stall was a remarkable learning experience! There were more generous volunteers than buyers.

We were competing with awesome booksellers who were selling books at \$1 each and an avalanche of second hand books selling from 50 cents each. And it was really a children's day.

This was a very valuable learning curve and we will do much better at the Glenelg Palindrome literary Festival, which will be managed by Pamela Rajkowski on Saturday, October 27 at Partridge House.

Our main aim is to sell members' books and the newly formed Marketing Committee is seriously on the case.

### \*\* REMINDER \*\*

#### NEXT MEETINGS

At the next meeting in the SA Writers' Centre on the 19th of October we will be launching Jennifer Benkhausers' book "A Mystique's Cry", a compilation of political, environmental and spiritual poetry.

The next Critique Session will be held on Saturday October 6th at 12 Sandford St Kensington Gdns (in the cottage at rear) at 2 pm. Phone Diane on 8332 6085 for more information.

## WRITING TIPS — ANTECEDENTS

What's wrong with this sentence?

*I saw a deer riding my bike.*

or this one?

*I saw a house walking through the forest.*

Obviously, in both cases, you have the wrong antecedent. Better to say:

*While riding my bike, I saw a deer.*

(Not a very exciting sentence, but at least it's correct.)

And in the second case:

*I saw a house while I was walking through the forest.*

We see the wrong antecedents time and again in prose and song. Here's one from a song:

*Rocking alone in an old rocking chair, I saw an old lady with silvery hair.*

So who's rocking alone?

And here's one from a song from South Pacific:

*Younger than I, officers and doctors probably pursue her....*

Who's younger than he is? The officers and doctors, or the lady he's singing about?

And one from a book I read some time ago:

*Raised as an orphan, the dog was his only friend.*

Who or what was raised as an orphan—the dog?

Sometimes, these antecedents that are placed incorrectly can be downright funny. So in your writing, make sure you always have the correct antecedent. If anyone can give me actual funny examples, I'd love to hear them.

For more writing tips, please check my website. Okay with me if anyone reprints this as long as credit is given.

**Shirley Martin**

## THE NAUTILUS BOOK AWARDS 2008

Call for Entries - Changing the World One Book at a Time -

[www.nautilusbookawards.com](http://www.nautilusbookawards.com)

**\*\* Recognizing Books that Promote Spiritual Growth, Conscious Living, and Positive Social Change \*\***

The eighth annual Nautilus Book Awards are now accepting entries in 23 subject categories honouring books that contribute to our society's awareness and well-being, and that embrace values such as compassion, sustainability, and global peace. Books copyrighted or released between June 1, 2006 and December 31, 2007, in English, are eligible. Final deadline is January 15, 2008.

Today, with mass global communication, political unrest, depletion and destruction of our natural resources along with religious and secular fanaticism all growing at an alarming rate, the need for books that promote positive social change is great, and the phrase, "Changing the World One Book at a Time" is more meaningful than ever before. Authors and publishers and their books CAN and ARE making a difference. The Nautilus Book Awards were conceived to recognize and reward these world-changing books in 23 categories, including four new ones: AGING/REJUVENATION; ENERGY MEDICINE; CONSCIOUS MEDIA/JOURNALISM; and INDIGENOUS/MULTICULTURAL.

Judging: Nautilus Book Awards winners and finalists are carefully selected in a unique three-tier judging process by an experienced team of book reviewers, librarians, authors, editors, book store owners, and leaders in the publishing industry.

Awards: Winning titles will be exhibited in a 2008 Nautilus Book Awards Showcase at BookExpo America in the Los Angeles Convention Center from May 30 - June 1, 2008.

A winner, runner-up, and 5-6 finalists will be named for each category, a special award will be given to the top small press or self-published title, and two overall Grand Prize winners (one adult and one children's) will be announced. Winning titles will be featured for one year at

[www.nautilusbookawards.com](http://www.nautilusbookawards.com) and thereafter kept in the Nautilus Book Awards archives.

Click here to download a four-page PDF with complete guidelines and entry form: <http://www.independentpublisher.com/nautilus/NAUTILUS2008.pdf>

Click here to see winners of last year's Nautilus Book Awards:

<http://www.nautilusbookawards.com/nautilus/winners-2007.html>

Questions? Contact Marilyn McGuire at [marilyn@marilynmcguire.com](mailto:marilyn@marilynmcguire.com)

The Nautilus Book Awards are created and administered by Marilyn McGuire & Associates, Inc. of Eastsound, WA in association with Independent Publisher Online of Traverse City, MI.

## MORE ON E-PUBLISHING AND SCAMS BY ANONEMUSS.

Just when you think you've heard it all, something new comes out to test the patience and resilience of authors...

Before I embark on yet another "peril" out there in publishing land, please note that I am not against e-publishing, or authors who choose to publish in that medium. I e-publish for many reasons and every e-pub. I have had dealings with has been highly professional. (However, we all know that there are e-publishers and e-authors who ought not to be in the business...)

What I have to impart is yet another example of how authors need to be careful, to realise that—inevitably—some time in your career you are going to be stung, hurt or otherwise disenchanted with the business ... it happens to us all, and I have been ripped off, scammed and otherwise dealt with by some real experts... Decide to go under or bounce back—ready for the next "challenge" along your writer's journey!

Now that this disclaimer is out of the way, here is something to make you wince:-

An author colleague came across yet another site offering free downloads of e-books. She joined the site (\$20) and checked out what was on offer. To her shock she discovered 500 copies of one of her most popular e-books... At random, she clicked on several of the links and found that none of them worked. All she received for her trouble was the download of 5 "Trojans" into her computer (and I don't mean Paris and Hector!, etc.)

We are uncertain whether this is a site to try and teach readers NOT to support free download sites or geek/geeks who have used the lure of free books to collect money and have some "fun" messing up someone's computer with viruses ... go figure!

And another warning from an e-publisher who has heard that any authors who "go after" pirate sites will be "dealt with".

## IMPORTANT REPORT FROM THE RWA CONFERENCE IN DALLAS

This is the largest gathering of writers held in the world. The RWA is a powerful lobby group for romance writers with a membership of more than 10,000 members

**Harlequin/Silhouette -This was a two-hour workshop hosted by Birgit Davis Todd and Mary Theresa Hussey so it is directly out of the mouth of the editors of the world's largest book-selling romance company in the world.**

Harlequin is always looking for new voices and seasoned authors for their programs. There are a lot of opportunities at Harlequin and Silhouette. The company has three acquisition offices – New York, Toronto and London.

**Harlequin books are published in 100 countries in 26 languages, in print, ebook and audio formats. They are sold online, through mail order bookclubs and in bookclubs, grocery stores, drug stores, discount stores and a variety of outlets.**

Harlequin has a stated commitment to "relevant stories well-told." "We are looking for stories to entertain and emotionally engage the reader," said Ms. Todd.

Melissa Jeglinsky, Editor for Silhouette Desire spoke first. The line is "powerful, passionate and provocative."

The hero is wealthy and successful. The heroine may be working class or also wealthy – but not as successful as the hero. Setting in the world of glamour and power. There is an intense attraction between the hero and heroine. These are sensual reads, but not overtly sexual, although there should be one fully consummated love scene. The hero and heroine are always aware of the attraction. The heroine may be reluctant to act on it, but the hero is not – he is the pursuer. These are conflict-driven stories. The conflicts should be thought-provoking, intense and interesting – larger than life. There should be more than one conflict in each book. These are 50,000-word books. She is looking for new authors, who should be able to write 'several titles a year' for the

line.

Kathleen Schiebling, Assoc. Sr. Ed for American Romance announced that American has signed two new authors from the slush pile this year. These are stories of home, family and community. Tried and true themes are welcome – babies, brides, cowboys, twins. Western settings are popular, but remember there are other western states besides settings. A sense of place really sets American romance apart from the other Home and Family settings. The books celebrate regional details. The focus is on romance. The development of the central romance is key. 60,000 words – computer count. Stories are tight, fast-paced, and energetic with a satisfying romantic solution. There is room for subplots and secondary characters, but they should serve the main story and forward the romantic plot. American produces four books a month. The level of sensuality varies.

Kimberly Young, Sr. Editor, Harlequin Romance spoke next. As of Feb. 07, Harlequin Romance expanded to six titles a month. They're looking for authors who can "pack emotion, laughter, conflict, story and wonderful characters" into 50,000 - 55,000 words. This series is the home of traditional romance. That doesn't mean old-fashioned. They want 'feel-good romances.' Each story should capture the highs and lows of falling in love. Very character-driven, couple-focused series. They want international, cosmopolitan setting with a strong sense of place. The heroes and heroines are people the reader roots for. The stories should have emotional depth. May be 'feel good chick lit stories or three-hanky reads.' Sensual tension is a must and couples may make love before marriage, but there are no explicit details. Submit three chapters and a 1-2 page synopsis to the London office.

Mary Theresa Hussey spoke on behalf of Patience Smith for Silhouette Romantic Suspense – formerly Silhouette Intimate Moments. The line was re-

launched in February 2007 with a new look. These books are love stories with a hint of suspense. The word count is 55,000 - 60,000 words computer word count. Writers should jump into the romance write away and get to the heart of the conflict within a few pages. The stories have elements of suspense but the focus is on the romance. This is not the place for gritty details of the suspense plot. Paranormal elements are welcome as long as these elements are very subtle and shouldn't play a major role in the story. They welcome military stories, espionage, international settings. They're actively looking for new authors.

Laura Shin spoke about Superromance. (Laura is no longer with the company. This line is now edited by Wanda Ottewell.) Superromance is looking for new writers. She spoke about the Conflict of Interest contest running through October 31 – details available at eHarlequin.com. This line wants strong, emotional conflicts with a focus on the romance. The passionate, tension-filled conflict should be sustained throughout the novel. Strong characterization is key. [www.superromancecontest.com](http://www.superromancecontest.com) 60,000 - 65,000 words 6 books a month.

Anne Leslie Tuttle, Associate Sr. Editor, Silhouette Nocturne and Harlequin Next spoke about Nocturne. This newer line has been very successful so far, with two titles on the NYT list. Nocturne publishes both established and new authors. The books are dark and very sexy. Two books are released each month. In spite of a comfortable inventory, they are actively seeking new writers. The story should take the readers from everyday life to an atmospheric, complex paranormal words. Contemporary, fast-paced and action packed stories 70,000 - 75,000 words. Powerful, mysterious heroes. Heroines are also powerful, but with some vulnerability and there is a strong attraction between the hero and heroine. The hero should be a darkly tortured, strong alpha male,

preferably wealthy. The stories should be fast-paced. Each world has its own rules and conventions. The writing should be evocative and sensual – sometimes it's a bit over-the-top. The stories may be set anywhere in the world – vampires, werewolves, shape-shifters, psychic powers. She also spoke about what they're not looking for: a lighter, chick-lit voice; stories in which the heroine is stronger than the hero; beta heroes; slow paced stories.

Tessa Shapcott, Executive editor of Harlequin Presents which is based in London spoke about Presents Collections. Presents Collections are done on a quarterly basis but beginning in August they will be producing Presents Collections stories aimed at a slightly younger readers. Some of these stories have been previously published in England as Modern Extra. Presents Collections is Presents' younger sister – slightly younger characters, fresh feel. The hero is an alpha male. He's young and making his way in the world. He's charismatic. He's the man every girl in the office wants to fall in love with. He is confident, even audacious. He's believable, three-dimensional and twenty-first century man. He expects women to be as capable as him. He may have a light-hearted, fun and flirty side. He is climbing the ladder, but has further to go. Presents Collections are very sexy with strong sensuality and lots of passion. The heroine is urban in her outlook and lifestyle. She's starting in her career, goes to clubs with her friends. The settings may be anywhere in the world. We come to know how she feels about work, her friends and family, how she sees her life. The overall tone for Presents Collections should be sparkling, sensual, with a hint of wit. They are really looking for new writers for Presents Collections. The first collection in August was The Eligible Bachelors – 6 books. 50,000 words. Submit a synopsis and the first three chapters to the London Office.

Marsha Zinberg, Executive Editor, Feature and Custom Publishing oversees Limited Continuities, Nascar,

More Than Words, Anthologies and other special releases. More Than Words honors five women who make a difference in their communities. Authors create novellas based on these women's true stories. Previously these have been released as a trade paperback. Now they will be released as a gift hardcover of new stories to honor the current winners and a mass market paperback of previous stories. The popular Anthology program continues. This showcases established and newer, up-and-coming authors.

There will be six new releases in 2008. Nascar and Harlequin have partnered to produce titles that have done very well. Beginning in the latter half of 2007, there will be two new releases every six weeks. There are 16 books in the Nascar series and a number of single titles. They are working on a brand-new 16-book continuity series for 2008, Season of Champions. They're already looking ahead to 2009 Nascar titles. Limited continuities are another successful venture for Harlequin. Mediterranean Nights is the current series. These books are written by a cross-section of various Harlequin and Silhouette authors. Athena Force – a popular Bombshell series - is returning as a limited continuity. This series launched in August. Other series are planned for 2008 and beyond. Authors for all of these are recommended by their editors

## COMING EVENTS

### **Thursday October 11th**

Venue: Norwood Concert Hall Time: 7.30pm to 9.30pm

Cost: Free

Bookings: Not required

Information: Contact Denise Schumann, Norwood History Centre on 8366 4536 or email [dschumann@npsp.sa.gov.au](mailto:dschumann@npsp.sa.gov.au)

Great History - Is it Fact, Memoir or Mere Fiction?

Presenting world renown Australian author, Professor Brian Matthews (currently working on a new biography of Manning Clark) and direct from the Sydney Writers Festival, author & memoir specialist Patti Miller in conversation with ABC In-

terviewer, Carole Whitelock, two of Australia's leading authors. A must for anyone interested in writing or reading biography.

### **Friday October 12th**

Writers Workshops: Patti Miller Patti's approach to life writing has grown out of her love and knowledge of the art of writing and literature as well as her lifelong fascination with the way stories construct our sense of self. She has been published in literary magazines since the late 1970s. Her articles and personal essays, including travel writing, have been widely published in national newspapers including the Sydney Morning Herald and The Australian. Patti is the author of five books with her most recent being The Memoir Book (2007) Allen & Unwin. In 2007 Patti is travelling to Paris, Ubud and now Norwood to conduct her inspiring writers workshops.

### **How to Write the Story of Your Life**

Participants will learn how to document the story of their lives and capture their family's history in these popular workshops by renowned memoir writer - Patti Miller. Patti's workshops were a sell-out at the recent Sydney Writers' Festival. Specifically designed for the Baby-Boomers, these workshops are also sure to sell out fast as Patti proves that writing becomes more than a record, it becomes a creative journey. (Patti's Books will be available for purchase at the workshops)

**Session 1:** Life Stories...Translating the Texture of Memory to the Page  
Time: 9am – 12noon

**Session 2:** The Story Teller...The Heart of Memoir Writing. Time: 1pm - 4pm

**Venue:** Don Pyatt Hall, Norwood Town Hall, George Street

**Cost:** \$20 per session

Limited to 15 participants for each session.

Bookings: 8366 4612.

Information: Denise Schumann, Norwood History Centre. Phone 8366 4536 or email [dschumann@npsp.sa.gov.au](mailto:dschumann@npsp.sa.gov.au)

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR WRITERS

\*\*The one that brought us Cate Kennedy, Paddy O'Reilly and Emmett Stinson is back - [The Age Short Story Competition](#). I'm sure you know the rules by now. Entries close 5 October.\*\*

\*\*Awesome prizes and kudos galore up for grabs in the 2007 [GC O'Donnell Essay Prize](#). The topic is copyright and the protection of author interests. Closes 19 October 2007.\*\*

\*\*Positive Words is holding an end-of-year short story and poetry competition. Cash prize and publication to the winner, and you can enter with stamps, which I love. Closes 31 October, entry details from 466 Old Melbourne Road, Traralgon 3844, Victoria.\*\*

\*\*[Short and Twisted](#) seeks submissions of stories to 2000 words, super-short stories to 500 words and poems to 30 lines for a 2008 issue. Stories must have a twist! Closing date 30 November.\*\*

\*\*If you're an Asian-Australian with a story to tell, share your thoughts and experiences with [Black Inc](#) for their upcoming anthology, to be edited by Alice Pung. Closes 1 December.\*\*

\*\*[Signature](#) is seeking new voices and new impressions for an ongoing, online publishing project. In particular they want ideas, stories and voices that aren't usually covered by mainstream media. Check their site for the low-down.\*\*

\*\*The gorgeous Kat is collecting accounts of depression in written or visual art form for a compilation book called *Head Noises*. They are seeking any truthful and raw accounts that you would like to share to help bridge the gap of loneliness experienced by sufferers of depression. Details on [Social Experiment](#)\*\*

### Vignette news

Vignette Press is gearing up for the launch of their very first book title: [the sex mook](#), a quirky and entertaining look at sex, sexuality and gender. There is a sneak preview pdf to download on the site, and [pre-orders](#) are available now. For those that get in quick there is free postage to anywhere in the world.

### Out and about

Vignette Press is going to be out and

about a lot in September and October. Catch me at:

September 30, [Newcastle Small Press and Zine Fair](#)

October 26, Canberra, [the SEX mook launch @ Australian National Library](#)

October 31, Melbourne, the SEX mook party @ PolyEster Books (info coming soon)

Lisa Dempster

**Vignette Press**

ph. 03 9381 2123

fax. 03 8610 2058

[www.vignettepress.com.au](http://www.vignettepress.com.au)

## TOM COLLINS POETRY PRIZE

The Fellowship of Australian Writers WA is pleased to announce that entries are now open for the annual **Tom Collins Poetry Prize**, sponsored by [J Furphy & Sons](#).

Entries now open, **close December 31st 2007** Maximum 60 lines per poem

**First Prize \$1000**

Second Prize \$400, four Highly Commended Prizes of \$150 In addition, four Commended entries will receive certificates only.

Entry Fee \$5 per poem, maximum of three poems per author.

Cheques and Money orders payable to FAWWA

All work must be previously unpublished, we reserve the right to publish winning, second place and highly commended entries.

Results published in *Fellowship News*. A pen name must be used and changed for each poem submitted. The real name of the author must not appear on the manuscript. A cover page containing: Competition, Title of Poem, Pen Name is needed for each entry, plus a completed entry form. If list of prizewinners is required, send a SSAE with your entry or provide email address on the entry

form. Entry form available at Tom Collins House, or downloaded from: [www.fawwa.org.au](http://www.fawwa.org.au) Send entries to: Competition Secretary, Entry for TCPP, PO Box 312, Cottesloe WA 6911. Queries? Contact FAWWA on (08) 9384 4771, or email [admin@fawwa.org.au](mailto:admin@fawwa.org.au) Winners announced late February 2008.

## PLOTTING & PIZZA

FRIDAY October 12th at 6.30 pm in The Cottage 12 Sandford St., Kensington Gardens

Cost - \$15...includes pizzas and refreshments (any change goes to Writing Right)

At our last meeting it was realised that members would welcome a PLOTTING WORKSHOP. Plotting and planning the content is the basis of any writing, whether writing a thesis, fiction, biographies, film scripts, website or any type of writing. A strong plotting foundation shortcuts the writing process, makes the work stronger, more readable and more marketable.

### Program:

- ♦ Types of plot (genre)
- ♦ Plots that sell
- ♦ The Basis of every plot – who, why, where, when & how
- ♦ Fleshing out the plot skeleton.
- ♦ Exercise: Outline a plot (preceded with explanation & example)
- ♦ Pizzas & drinks at 7.30
- ♦ Polishing each plot

Handouts provided

Payment with booking

Number limited to eight (8) places

Contact: [dyoz@ozemail.com.au](mailto:dyoz@ozemail.com.au)

or Tel: 833260985

## HANDLING MULTIPLE POVS BY VICKI HINZE

### Question:

I'm about 11,000 words into a suspense novel, but I can't make myself move ahead in the story. The story revolves around not only the "main" protagonist, but his daughter and the two antagonists involved are also important catalysts for conflict.

I have a feeling the reason my brain has fossilized is because I've noticed that my main protagonist hasn't been in the last several scenes. Something in my head keeps telling me that he should be more involved (and he is indirectly).

But on the other hand, it seems to me that if I don't get into these other character's heads occasionally (particularly early on) the story won't develop and the conflicts won't be effective.

Should I worry that my main protagonist isn't in every scene or drops out of sight for several scenes before returning? I hate being at a standstill, but I'm frozen in time.

### Answer:

It's difficult to give you a firm do this or that response without reading the text or having a firm grip on the story and knowing what it is you're trying to accomplish, but I can offer you a few general tips from the trenches.

1. There's an article on Point of View in my library. You might want to take a look at it and see if there's anything there that makes this click for you. Often we "think" we need alternate points of view to bring in the other characters' motives, but we can bring them into clear focus through the protagonist's point of view.

Consider this: When you are in a character's point of view, the reader is inside that character's head. Every time you change point of view, the reader has to get inside another character's

head. That generates psychic distance between the characters and the reader. Too much distance, or too many point of view changes, and the reader doesn't attach to the character.

A loss of attachment means less character empathy, less reader involvement, and that equates to less immediacy. That equates to the reader not caring what happens to the characters, and that equates to the reader readily putting the book down and not reading.

So there is great value in keeping to a minimum number of point of view characters. There are some stories—Lady Liberty, for example—where it is impossible to not use multiple points of view because there is no way for the protagonist to know these other people/events/things. Though that was the case in this novel, the multiple points of view was a problem for some readers.

From feedback I received, that problem was reported most often by readers accustomed to reading single viewpoint novels, but it was an issue for them and that makes it a valid writer's concern.

(Feedback from readers who often read multiple viewpoint novels included no challenges with following the characters/storyline.) Just some thoughts to keep in mind. It is important to know your readers because it does make a difference. Ask yourself what are they accustomed to reading?

2. It's not uncommon for a protagonist not to appear for a couple scenes in a mainstream novel. If you're writing a genre novel, be careful. If your protagonist isn't in the scene, what's happening in the scene should be about the protagonist.

While this isn't an unbreakable rule, it is one you shouldn't break needlessly—

and one you won't break easily without consequences. Weigh and judge. The consequences could well be worth paying, if that's what best suits the story. But do try to fit within the framework natural to your novel type before you complicate matters for yourself by writing outside it.

3. If you're running dual protagonists and dual antagonists, and you must use all four points of view, set a pattern early in the novel for doing so and continue it on throughout the book. The novel then develops a rhythm of A to B to C to D to A and so forth. If you stick with that, the reader subconsciously expects it, and so the reader follows in the flow of the book.

This helps keep the reader on track and the novel on track. The reader isn't distracted trying to remember who is who and what is happening with that character. If you need strong examples, Jeffrey Archer is particularly skillful at this.

It's when you set the pattern and then handle point of view haphazardly, not following the pattern you set, that you into trouble. Why? Because the reader never settles into the rhythm of the novel, and subconsciously realizes it and is irritated by it.

Not settling into the novel nets the same type reaction to the book as not identifying with the characters. The reader never forgets s/he is reading and can't get lost in the story. That's another form of psychic distance and not the type you create intentionally.

4. If your head is telling you to get back to your protagonist, the odds are very high that's exactly what you need to do.

See the rest of this article here:

<http://www.fictionfactor.com/guests/multiplepov.html>

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**HELP US TO HELP YOU IN 2007**

TELL US WHAT YOU NEED?

WHAT INFORMATION WOULD HELP YOU TO GET PUBLISHED?

DO YOU WANT MORE WORKSHOPS?

DO YOU WANT MORE SPEAKERS? – WHAT SUBJECTS?

SEND YOUR EMAILS TO [dyo@ozemail.com.au](mailto:dyo@ozemail.com.au)



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**WEBSITE LISTING**

**If anyone has any interesting websites that they think would be beneficial to other members, please let us know ASAP.**

**Next month will again feature the website listing which has proven to be very helpful for our members in their quest for writing excellence!**