



MENTORING WRITERS NEWSLETTER

QUARTERLY ISSUE: JULY-SEPT 2022

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LAUNCH - See p4**



UPDATES

Well, what a busy couple of months we've been having here at Mentoring Writers. We are on the verge of launching the debut Picture book for our youngest writer, Lorella Pacey. Jolly Loves Jelly is all about a Giraffe who just loves jelly; in particular strawberry jelly. It's a lovely short story with fabulous images originally drawn by Lorella and finessed by our in-house illustrator Cerys Edwards who has done an amazing job at keeping the images exactly as Lorella portrayed them. So far we are not sure who is more excited about the launch, me, Lorella or her Dad, Mark, who is so eager to help in getting the book out there. He has started a website for the book and we think more books are sure to follow. Check it out at www.jollylovesjelly.com and please follow Lorella on social media to give her the boost she needs.

Another great book launch we attended at the end of May was that of our Poet Group leader Lis McDermott. She has launched her debut book He Is Not Worthy. You can read more about the event on page 4.

With the Page Turner Awards Writing Competition now closed, Ann is busy carrying out her judging job choosing the winner(s) of the Mentoring Writers Mentoring Prize. This is the third year we have offered this prestigious prize and we are delighted to see that Page Turners has gone from strength to strength as it attracts more and more award givers from all aspects of the writing world.

Oh! almost forgot, we have another debut book, by Lawrence Dracut, due to be launched next month and titled Destroy the Planet. This is a picture book, or I should really say illustrated guide for adult readers about the damage we are doing to our world. I will confess that it is a most unusual book but certainly one that we are sure will make people stand up and look at it with some interest. With a viewpoint similar to Claire Donald's - Mother Earth is Weeping - a children's book, this one shows adults exactly what they are doing wrong. It has some brilliant images, again thanks to our in-house illustrator Cerys Edwards who took the author's instructions and produced some amazing results.

A website is being launched that will also explain more about the book, the author and why he felt it important to cover this topic. www.lawrencedracut.com

Some other good news is that the Mentoring Writers Resource Box podcasts have now reached over 9500 plus unique downloads.

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UPDATES

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We are well aware that when compared to other podcasts, such as those made by popular celebrities, this number isn't that great but, for a show like ours which is unique in itself and which covers a very specific topic, we are happy. I think once we hit the 10,000 mark we shall be opening a good bottle and celebrating.

If you haven't logged on yet to listen to any of our podcasts then you can either check them out on our website or on the special Libsyn Mentoring Writers Resource Box podcast show website - links below:

MENTORINGWRITERS.CO.UK



MENTORING WRITERS RESOURCE BOX (LIBSYN)



On another more joyous note we hope you had a relaxing and fun time during the Jubilee celebrations. I have to admit that I found the opening sequence with Her Majesty having tea with Paddington Bear was just perfect. Her timing was superb, although having been reading about the recording of the piece, it was a very tense time for all those concerned, except HM. It just goes to show that old Grannies still keep their sense of humour and can mix it up when necessary. Mind you it did get me thinking what a boost for the sale of Paddington Books and Toys!! It should happen every day to all our beloved characters. We wish, ha ha.

And finally, I attended the Abergavenny Arts Festival on the 18th June. That's a first for quite some time. Getting back into the main stream of mixing and doing presentations was both exciting and nerve wracking, but hey that's all part of what we writers get up to isn't it?

So, I will say good luck to those who are launching new works, and all the best for those doing presentations wherever they may be, including Colin Parsons who has been visiting my own county area of Yorkshire. Otherwise, if you have hit a bit of a slow spot then keep your chin up. Remember, you'll get there in the end.

Ann Brady

LIS McDERMOTT BOOK LAUNCH



Friday 27th May saw Derek and I heading across the border towards Royal Wootton Bassett for the launch party for Lis's debut novel 'He is Not Worthy.'

What a well attended affair it proved to be with every seat sold out and extra chairs having to be brought into the room.

Lis started with an introduction before a journalist friend took her through a Q & A set about the book, how Lis had come up with the idea, and the whole writing process. This was followed by questions from the audience, a small competition with two winners, and then a book signing. Overall a great evening celebrating my friend's success.

Well done Lis, see there was no need for the nerves lol!



<https://lismcdermottauthor.co.uk/>



Getting my personalised copy.

MATSUO BASHO

Haiku is a Japanese style of poem that emerged during the Edo period in the 17th century. It was greatly influenced by haikai no renga (俳諧の連歌, "comic linked verse") which consisted of a collaboration of several poets gathering, then taking turns to spontaneously compose a verse depending upon the verse that came before. A poet's ability and talent were judged on how closely related the two verses were. This style of poetry was first characterised as a vulgar and coarse demonstration of wit, but as the poets participating in the collaboration were of great talent, it quickly became a genre of its own, where the vulgarity of it was celebrated. One poet who came to be known as the master of this style, was Matsuo Basho, being first introduced to the haikai circles in Edo, the Shogunate capital city. His skills were quickly recognised, and his fame grew to the point that disciples started to follow him. However, Basho grew tired of city life, deciding he would rather live on the road. When he started wandering off the main roads of medieval Japan, it was expected he would die, killed by bandits. But Basho's mood, which had been in constant decline for the past few years, started to improve as he crossed the countryside, east to west and north to south. He took inspiration from the constantly changing scenery, often capturing the beauty of a moment in haiku poems. Because haikus are only composed of three verses and 17 syllables, it has often been linked to Zen Buddhism, where capturing the essence of a precise moment is part of meditation. Matsuo Basho died peacefully surrounded by his disciples in 1694. To this day he is still considered to be one of the best Japanese literary masters.

古池や / 蛙飛び込む / 水の音

Furuike ya/ Kawazu tobikomū/ Mizu no oto

“Old pond A frog jumps in – The sound of water”

- Matsuo Basho, An Old Pond

LIS'S POETRY GROUP

If you would like to have a go at writing poetry but feel perhaps you aren't good enough, or maybe you think it's something that is too posh for you? Well, think again! Why? Because that is just not the case.

Poetry, in all its forms is making a great comeback (that is if it ever left.) Why not check out Lis's Poetry Group. We discuss poetry formats, listen to poems we've written, usually based on given prompts and have a chit chat about poetry in general, and sometimes other things as well. There is nothing too heavy about it. And... it all happens within an hour.

The meetings are currently held via Zoom, with the group meeting on the last Saturday in the month (2pm TO 3pm)

Go on, come along and join us. For more details click for the link or

use this email: lis@lismcdermottauthor.co.uk



A POEM STARTING WITH A LETTER

P IS FOR POPULAR – BUT ARE YOU

Popular tho' you think you are
Perhaps you should think again
People often get it wrong
Particularly when they take their time to
Ponder where you really come from?



COMPETITIONS



The Cranked Anvil Quarterly Prompt Competition is open all year round, with deadlines on 1st July, 1st October and 1st April.

The prompt elements of each quarter are specified on their site. 3 prizes. Word count: 700-1000, not including the title.

Closed 31/05

Check it out now.



The Caledonia Novel Award 2023 novel competition is open to entries from 1 May 2022. Closes to entries at midnight GMT on 1 November 2022. Novels can be in any genre for adults or young adults. Novels must be the entrant's original work and at least 50,000 words in length. Competition is open to writers over age of 18 of any nationality and resident in any country Closes 15/07 - Check it out.



Winchester Poetry Prize 2022
Open to anyone aged 16 or over. Entries sent via email or by post. Poems on any subject and in any form or style. They must be typed and no longer than 40 lines (excluding title). Should be in English, entrant's own work and not have been published or accepted for publication elsewhere (inclgd online)

Closes 31 July 2022 (11:59pm)



Creative Writing Ink Short Story Competition 2022

For unpublished stories up to 3,000 words, in any style or form, from writers worldwide.

The winner will receive £1,000, a Creative Writing Ink online course, and publication on the Creative Writing Ink website. Two runners up will each win £200. Closes 30/09

Check it out now.



The Anthology Short Story Award
Anthology magazine runs four annual Creative Awards. This year the Short Story Award is for original, unpublished short stories up to 1,500 words on the theme of 'Courage'.

The winner will receive €500 and their story will be published in Anthology.

Closes 31/08

Check it out now.



Searchlight Awards - Best Novel Opening for Children or Young Adults is open to anyone over the age of 16.

The top 10 stories will feature in the Winners' Collection, to be sent to publishers and literary agents, and published in an anthology. Word limit: the first 1,200 words of a longer novel.

Closes 22/08

Check it out now



LATEST NEWS FROM THE MENTORING WRITERS RESOURCE BOX PODCASTING SERIES:

It appears that the increase in the number of unique downloads of the Mentoring Writers Resource Box podcasts is continuing. This is proving to be encouraging thus leading us to believe we are offering a genuine service that writers are interested in. If you are one of our podcast listeners and would like us to chat about a specific subject then email us with your suggestions. And if you haven't yet listened to any of our podcasts then why not check us out now. They are available on our website and via all good podcast providers.

AUTHORS ARE A BUSINESS - PARTS 1 & 2



Often we authors forget that we are in fact a business. One that needs constant attention. If you think that you may be missing out on your business planning then check out this two part podcast where we believe we can give you a few helpful tips to progress your future.

CREATING A VIVID WORLD

Sometimes we get bogged down in the way we write about our characters and the scenes we produce. In this podcast we try to show you how you can adapt your writing so that your scenes appear more vivid and alive.



<https://mentoringwriters.libsyn.com/website>



"If you want to be a writer, you must do two things above all others: read a lot and write a lot." ~ Stephen King



WHEN A BLAST FROM THE PAST LAUNCHES HER NEW BOOK!!!

Sometime in the middle of 2021 a lady called Sue Smith contacted me with an idea she had about writing a book. It was to be a fact based story titled The story of the Cardiff & Vale Perinatal Mental Health Team January 1998 to July 2020. Her idea was that it would cover the details of her experience as the doctor who created, set up and ran this special unit.

We had a long Zoom call about what I felt she should do and left it with her. The most important elements I felt she should do was to a) make sure all her facts were correct and b) get her research in order - that included dates, specific areas, people etc. I also advised her to get written permission from the people she was planning to include in the book so as to prevent any problems down the line.

She obviously took my advice to heart and by September she sent me the photograph showing how organised she had become with her paperwork. Wow, I thought, she's better than my husband and he's manic at having his paperwork in order!!

Time passes and three weeks later I receive an email from her asking if I remembered our Zoom meeting. Well, of course I did. She goes on to tell me she had done it and had finally published her book. Would I like a copy. Yes I would. And so I received a very thick book as shown in the pic below.

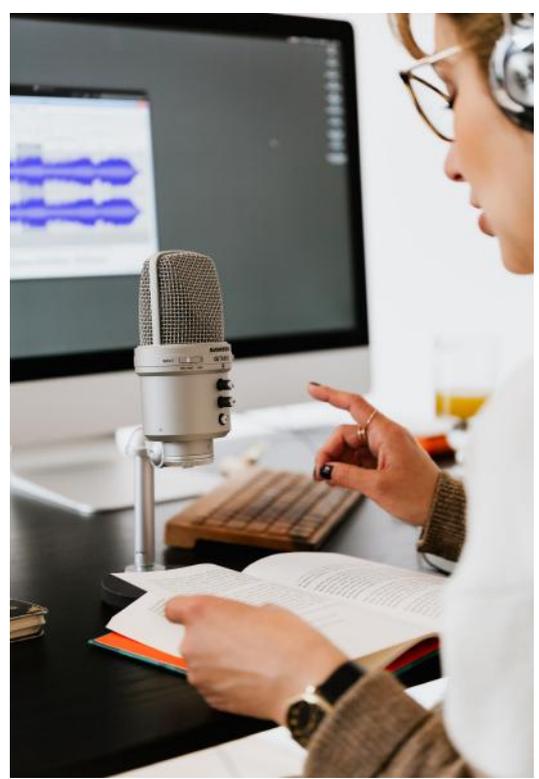
I was so pleased I could help her and that she remembered the helping words I gave which have led her to achieving her goal. This is one happy lady. Thanks Sue.



Organising your files the proper way!!



AUDIO BOOK UPDATE



So, as reported in the last Newsletter, I finally took the plunge and decided to get an audio book recorded of my novel 'Dear Friends: Letters from Abroad.' The process so far as been quite interesting.

Although slow to start with, I must admit that the company I am using are being thorough. We started with me discussing what my requirements were. For a start I have two heroines/protagonists in my novel so wondered if I could have two narrators?

No problem, was the answer.

I sent a couple of sample chapters for each narrator and within a short period of time I received samples from four different ladies. Because I knew my two heroines came from different backgrounds I informed the director how I envisaged each would speak. What I initially forgot was the other characters within the the chosen chapters. (A learning curve as they say).

Still, with a little effort I listed all the main characters, gave a description of who they were (I even found images on Google similar to those I wanted,) and also what voice/accent I would expect them to speak in.

From the samples, I chose the two voices I liked. They re-recorded the whole chapter, with the additional voice changes for the the other

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AUDIO BOOK UPDATE

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characters and sent them to me for approval. Once I was happy they began recording.

About three weeks later I got my first draft recordings to listen to. This has included the errors discovered by their proof reader. All I have to do is listen to the recording and make my own notes, as well agreeing or disagreeing with the proof reader.

I have done the first 10 Chapters and am now working on the remainder. It has been a great experience so far and a learning curve as I have been taught something I didn't know about Google docs which is great.

So that's it for now; more updates next time. Mind you, if it all goes well I should have a completed audio book by next month. Only problem next is to learn how to sell it on my websites and where to upload on to other websites without getting locked into exclusivity. Any clues anyone? Who said writing isn't fun!!

WE NEED YOU...

Do you have something of interest that our listeners would enjoy hearing about? Have you written a new book and would like the opportunity to chat about it and the process of creating/writing it?

Have you learnt something along your writing journey that you feel will benefit new and developing writers, and are you willing to share it with us and our listeners?

If you would like to be 'In Conversation With...' Ann Brady of Mentoring Writers then email us with your details to: contact@mentoringwriters.co.uk placing Interview in the subject box.

TIPS FOR GOOD BOOK COVER DESIGN

MENTORING KNOW HOW?

Knowing and understanding the constituent parts of a book cover can help you make the best marketing decisions when you design or commission your own. Despite the popular saying of never judge a book by its cover, when it comes to readers it is actually the cover they will use to judge the contents of any book. And that includes yours. It could make the difference between the reader walking (or scrolling) past it – or choosing to buy it.

Remember, you want to design your book cover not just to attract readers, but to make sure you are attracting the right kind of readers. Today's podcast will briefly take you through the anatomy of a book cover. Our hope is it will help you build yours from the ground up so that it's optimised to sell well.

Let's start with Cover Imagery

Whether you use an edited stock image, an illustration, or bespoke photography, imagery is your cover's starting point. It affects all future decisions – such as text positioning. And, since your cover will be displayed as thumbnails in online stores, the clarity and impact of the cover image are crucial.

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For example, the cover for *Sing Me to Sleep* by Angela Morrison is based on a Shutterstock image of two hands, which has been manipulated, edited, and layered with other elements by a designer to have the desired effect. The image of the two hands works for *Sing Me to Sleep* as it hints at the tentative relationships that the main character Beth makes, and represents the emotion-driven action of the story.

A cover image, if effective, will:

1. Indicate what genre the author is operating in,

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MENTORING KNOW HOW?

TIPS FOR GOOD BOOK COVER DESIGN

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2. Provide hints as to the contents of the book, and
3. Compel people to read it.

A picture does indeed tell a thousand words. In this case, it needs to tell (or indeed sell) all the thousands of words within the novel.

Typography

When handling the words on a cover, it's important to think in terms of visual hierarchy. In other words, how are you going to arrange the title, the author's name, and if applicable, the subtitle – paying close attention to the relative size of each element?

For example, with the cover design for Stephen King's *End of Watch*, there is a minimal but dramatic image with the author's name much larger than the title. King's name is the central selling point, so it stands to reason that it's at the top of the visual hierarchy. Equally, if you are a first-time author, or have a particularly long, impressive, or intriguing title, this will alter how you arrange the text.

Font choice is also extremely important and should have almost as much consideration as the book title itself. A swirly, stylish font might suit a romance novel but would look out of place on the front of say a thriller, or a non-fiction book. While there are trends that come and go, it still more or less, just needs to be readable.

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**Read more of our blogs at www.ann-brady.co.uk
or
in our resources at www.mentoringwriters.co.uk**

What the critic says?

WORLD NEWS

This week-end I did something I don't normally do. That is, I read a newspaper. Well, truth be told I read a section of The Mail on Sunday as pointed out to me by him indoors. As it turned out it the section proved quite interesting and at times humorous. The journalist was Craig Brown, who has the Mail on Sunday's book reviewer since 1999. Brown reckons he has written in reviews the equivalent of two War and Peace books. He says that while the whole process has been a slog, it has mostly been a thrill.

Now of course I am sure none of our books have crossed his desk but still it was interesting to get his take on what book industry in general. Brown has reviewed a wide spectrum of genres and over time he has come to the conclusion that publishing, like most things, is certainly prone to the tides of fashion. He has also noticed that over the number of years he has been reviewing that many of the classics have started to disappear, which is a shame in his mind.

Nowadays, he sees, as do we all, that more and more celebrities are being sought after. The problem is most of them are using ghost writers to produce their work of fiction etc. Not only does this mean that when interviewed the said celeb cannot talk about the book because they don't know the story and, to him, the works are quite often more boring. I think this says a lot for the ghost writers these people work with.

Brown has also seen an increase in the number of politicians and other such key figureheads, such as ex-head of M15, Presidents and of course certain Royal figures all of whom are relying on the ghost writer to produce their success story. Brown says that often he discovers that after many years of reviewing most of these so-called interesting peoples stories do in fact turn out to be the least interesting thing to read.

He even mention the Duchess of York who it seems as written so many books and is now collaborating with a prolific novelist to write romance for Mills & Boon. And another famous couple, The Clintons, have been collaborating with a writer to produce a thriller which turned out to be all the authors work? Sad really they couldn't come up with their own thriller, such as to why Ambassador Chris Stevens had to die in Benghazi - sorry I digress.

Strange as it may seem, Brown did actually decide that one of the best (unexpectedly is seems) autobiographical works he reviewed was that written by

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Jade Goody. It proved not to be the trashy novel he expected but a real eye-opener, a window to the poverty and deprivation of her upbringing in Modern Britain in the 1980's. To Brown it was so Dickensian.

Brown goes on to say how he feels the internet has killed off good books, such as anthologies and encyclopedia's, as well as the weighty volumes of letters by statesmen, etc. When it comes to critiquing, it is the Great and Good, as he puts it, that prefer to tweet or email, so he cannot see there being any enjoyment in reading say The Collected Emails of Jeffrey Archer? Although he could be wrong?

When it comes to critics he genuinely believes they are too kind. Whereas the internet is plastered with comments, even those that show no mercy such as 'rubbish' - 'a total rip off' - a shoddy piece of work'. (Personally I would take any review with a pinch of salt. After all it is only one persons opinion, and if they've had a bad day at work, whoa betide anyone!

The question is what does Brown look for in a book. Well, he says above all he wants a spark, energy, a sense of electricity; words rubbed together to create fire. A good book has to make you feel more keenly alive.

To him the job of a critic is to offer an honest assessment of a book in the most interesting and entertaining way possible.

What really amused me were his thoughts on publishers. When assessing the genres that are popular it appears that non-fiction crime is currently high on the agenda. Those cases where an innocent man is now found guilty or vice versa, a guilty man is proven to be innocent. In his opinion he is wondering if demand will outstrip supply. An amusing thought from him was that perhaps in time we might see publishers commission both a murder and a book to go with it. That sounds interesting? Maybe I should start my hit list now?

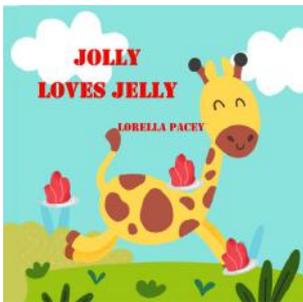
Craig Browns final words and thoughts were: his reading tastes have changed over the years, so much so he is going back to the classics. Yet despite all the technological advances of modern day there is still nothing like reading a book as it is still by far the best way of entertaining someone else's mind, as well as connecting your thoughts with theirs. And compared to everything else, books remain astonishingly cheap. You can still buy War & Peace for about £10; which is equivalent to a couple of Frappuccino's from Starbucks. Remember, the drink will disappear in a minute but War & Peace will enrich you for the rest of your life.

LATEST BOOKS

PEN & INK DESIGNS PUBLISHING

We are launching the debut book of our youngest mentee to-date - Lorella Pacey this week.

At 10 years old Lorella has suffered with her health in her short life but found a way to cope through her writing and drawing.



Jolly Loves Jelly is her first foray in the publishing world and has been funded under the Kids4Kids banner. The story is about a giraffe who discovers the taste for red jelly and decides to make his own. This is his story.

We thank Kids4Kids and Mrs Candace Cox for their donations in making this publication possible.

This is the draft cover for a new author, Lawrence Dracut, who has created something new for adults.

An Illustrated Guide for Adults - Destroy the Planet is aimed at bringing home to adults the damage we are doing to planet earth.

Thanks go to our in-house illustrator for the brilliant illustrations. Launch date to be announced shortly.

All books will be available from Amazon or www.annbradybooks.co.uk

We have further books in the pipeline to be launched later in the Autumn. Keep an eye out for further details.

MY NEWS



For all those kind people who keep asking about my knee, thank you. I have to say that at last it is beginning to feel somewhat normal. That is apart from the moments of stiffness I feel when waking in the morning. Anyway, what can I say, overall I am glad things are well on the amend.

Things have been quite hectic and busy around here. In the 'footballers pad' (the nickname the daughters have given our apartment) we have had a peculiar leak? I say peculiar because we couldn't work out where it was coming from as it was in the bedroom. Anyway, fingers crossed we are hoping that it might be on the way to being resolved. Thank goodness as the wetness on the carpet was sneaking ever closer to the bed?

So as reported earlier I attended a rather wet Abergavenny Arts Festival on the 18th June. As it turned out it wasn't too bad being the first face-to-face one I've done for quite awhile. The talk to the adults in the library went down well as did the kids picture book workshop in the castle moat. Fortunately that was dry and we were under cover so no wet papers flying around. I must say it was good to be doing live performances again and I'm not the only ones according to the posts on FB.

This last couple of months I have discovered something about myself which I wasn't aware of before? And that is that I write better poetry when under pressure. For the last couple of months I have been so busy that I failed to get my poems to Lis for our monthly poetry group meeting. Not she was bothered as she appreciates the time I spend doing my mentoring etc. However, I was beginning

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to feel very guilty that I wasn't sending in at least one poem. So, in an effort to be a 'good girl' (lol) I sat down and wrote about 3 or 4 quick poems and emailed them off to Lis that morning. She was delighted and thought they were good. So, this has now happened a couple of times and each time the poems are turning out better than ever. I'm not sure who is more impressed Lis or me? Looks like I do work well under pressure doesn't it?

I am still working on the audio book reviews. I do sometimes wish I had more hours in the day but hey ho one has to pace oneself and get the work done properly rather than rush things. I am sure its all going to work out good in the end.

This week him indoors and I are off to the Central Library in Cardiff to attend a book talk being given by author friend John F Wake. If you haven't seen or read any of John's books you really should look him up on facebook. He loves history, especially the history of Cardiff, which makes for interesting reading. Him indoors is going to take me for breakfast first at The Ivy. That man knows how to spoil a girl.

Finally my usual moan about technology. I was hacked. Not my business FB but my personal one. Fortunately a friend in Taiwan let me know and a change of password soon put a stop to that. Now I am changing my passwords again! There's him indoors using the same old passwords and here is me, with all the bells and whistles of a modern software protection, suffering attacks. Ridiculous.

Back to the drawing board, or at least the whiteboard to plan the next list of jobs there are to be done. That is apart from cleaning the apartment, doing the ironing and surprising my hubby by actually cooking something nice for him? Mmmm.... Perhaps a nice French Cassoulet me thinks?



Ann Brady

ANN BRADY - THE FAIRY GODMOTHER FOR ASPIRING WRITERS

Society of Authors (in the UK & Australia - SOA)

Society of Children's Book Writers & Illustrators (SCBWI International)

Alliance of Independent Writers (ALLi Author & Partner Members)

Romance Writers of Australia & New Zealand Members

Association of Freelance Writers & Journalists

Writers Guild of Great Britain



Q&A WITH ANN

Q: Is There Such a Thing as Too Much Backstory?

A: Backstory is the subtext for the context of the main story. The deeper it is, the deeper the subtext can be. So there really isn't such a thing as 'too much backstory.' However, there is definitely such a thing as sharing too much backstory within the main story. The best rule of thumb for knowing when and how much backstory to share is to try to refrain from sharing anything but hints about the backstory until the moment when the reader absolutely needs to know in order for the main story to work and progress.

Q: Must My Story Have an Antagonist? Or Can the Protagonist Be His Own Antagonist?

A: Man Against Himself is a time-honoured story form. There is nothing wrong with writing a book that centres primarily around a character's inner conflict. However, that conflict will almost always manifest in the outer world as well. Think of conflict as a series of related obstacles that prevent the character from reaching his/her overall goal until the end of the story. And the antagonistic force as whoever or whatever is presenting those obstacles. (The antagonistic force's moral alignment within the story is irrelevant as far as the foundational conflict goes.) Also, take a look at what is consistently standing between your character and their goals throughout the story. Whatever you find, that's your primary antagonistic force.

Q: Should I Use Real-Life Settings or Made-Up Settings?

A: Since I write historical fiction, this is something I have to consider in every book. I've done it both ways. Real-life settings present the obvious benefit of being instantly recognisable. Even if readers have never visited your setting, most will recognise the name and/or conjure up certain associations that will help them fill in the blanks and build the setting within their imaginations. Real-life settings offer built-in verisimilitude. The very fact that your setting is a real place gives readers a firmer belief in it and all the story events that happen there. Because the facts are already there for you to draw upon, you won't have to worry about creating a real-life setting from scratch. All you have to do is record what you see or learn. However, by the same token, you will also bear a greater responsibility for establishing an accurate portrayal. Get something wrong and some reader, somewhere, will notice. You'll also have to deal with the possibility that real-life people living in your real-life setting may not like how you've portrayed them or their home. Made-up settings, on the other hand, free you from the burden of the facts. If you want to maintain the verisimilitude of a real-life town, but need to tweak a few minor details, all you have to do is rename it. If you want to get a little wilder (as you almost certainly will if you're writing speculative fiction), a made-up setting gives you the power to alter whole swatches of reality. To some extent, all stories include made-up settings, even if it's only a street or a house. Made-up settings offer partial or total freedom from the constraints of the facts, but they also impose a heavy demand for active creativity. With the power of total creation comes total accountability. Because even the most realistic of made-up settings will always lack the added punch of being real, your attention to detail must be even more obsessive than usual. In most instances, the choice between a real-life setting and a made-up setting won't significantly affect your plot (for example, Batman could just as easily have lived in New York City as its made-up doppelgänger Gotham). But, in application, the decision will affect every page of your story.

CONTACT US

www.mentoringwriters.co.uk
contact@mentoringwriters.co.uk



**Are you a new, developing or established writer and
are needing some help?**

Do you need someone to discuss your storyline with?

**Or maybe you need help with your finished manuscript, either with
reviewing, editing or proofreading it.**

Whatever help you need we are able to assist you.

**For more details email us:
contact@mentoringwriters.co.uk**