

KS Writers Ink

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July 2015

July KWI Meeting:

Create Believable Characters Your Readers Will Love (Or Hate)

By Billie-Renee Knight

The topic of July's presentation is character creation, which to me is always a fascinating subject. People seem to ask the question "How did you come up with the characters?" more

cards, outlines, and copious work on names, dates, histories, likes/dislikes, etc.).

Thinking about taking part in the upcoming panel discussion forced me to concentrate on exactly how I create my characters. What

What exactly is the mysterious, mystical formula? Is there one? I'm not sure.

often than not when they find out you're writing a novel. Every author will probably provide a very different answer. In conversation with my writing friends, I am always amazed with the variety of techniques, which vary from no thought at all (the characters just kind of leap from their minds as the writing happens) to complex pre-writing preparation (note

exactly is the mysterious, mystical formula? Is there one? I'm not sure. I decided to Google "character creation" and came upon a basic tips article. The author, Glen C. Strathy, provided some down to earth, plain Jane suggestions in his article "How to Create Characters That Are

Continued on Page 2

Upcoming Meeting

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Join us for KWI's July meeting on Saturday, July 25. The business meeting begins at 12:30 p.m. at the Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library, 1515 SW 10th Ave. The program is at 1 p.m. Check the board at the library foyer to find out the meeting room.

Anyone interested can come early, around 10 a.m., for a critique session. Bring 10 double-spaced pages if you're interested in having your work critiqued, although it's not required.

REMEMBER: Please send your votes on next year's slate of officers to Shayne Sawyer. You should have received an email from her. If you didn't, email her at sawbeansx10@gmail.com.

Believable and Memorable” from his website, How to Write a Book Now.

Strathy gives four main criteria for character creation, all of which make perfect sense to me as a writer. He says you should create characters who 1) fulfill the required dramatic function of your novel; 2) are memorable; 3) are believable; and 4) are three-dimensional. These are important criteria to keep in mind when creating your main characters.

He is quick to point out there are some characters you won't spend the time on building into well-rounded characters

because they are part of the setting and that's all right. Of course, depending on your genre, there could be slight variations in these basic tenets.

Another major component to character creation is giving your characters the right name. Again this can be done randomly as the character appears in the story line or it can be a well-thought out plan with hard-core research behind the selection.

Regardless how the name is chosen, Strathy points out it's important to make each character's name distinct from others and keep them consistent. He suggests

avoiding the use of nicknames throughout your writing because it can cause confusion for the reader. I happen to disagree with this particular philosophy. Nicknames can be a great way to create that three-dimensional character, so why not take advantage of it?

Strathy has a series of articles on writing a novel, in general, and character creation on his web page at www.how-to-write-a-book-now.com or you can view the basic article at www.how-to-write-a-book-now.com/create-characters.html.

KS Writers Inc. June 2015 Minutes

Regular Meeting June 26, 2015

Present: Romie Chavez, Tish Glasson, Susie Graber, Reaona Hemmingway, Reed Holwegner, Billie-Renee Knight, Janet Stotts

Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Published in the May KWI newsletter. Typos corrected and Romie Chavez added to list of those present. Reed moved to approve the minutes as amended and it was approved by unanimous vote.

Treasurer's Report:

May's beginning balance:
\$3,302.47

May's expenses:
\$ 150.00

May's ending balance:
\$3,052.47

June's beginning balance:
\$3,052.47

June's expenses:
\$ 79.00

June's revenue:
\$ 220.00

Correspondence:

No correspondence.

Unfinished Business:

Newsletter – Please send items to Romie. He will send out a reminder the week before articles are due.

Website – Billie-Renee will update the Members' page on the website. Members are encouraged to send her a short bio, a photo and a link to their websites if available. Her email is knightdrk2@yahoo.com.

Blog – KWI blog is looking for entries. Submit to Tish, who will reward you with the candy of your choice.

New Business:

Next meeting - July 25

Debit card - Following the difficulty paying for the retreat site (they would not accept a check written on our account),
Continued on Page 3

Reed checked with the bank about getting a debit card. The bank will issue one to each approved signer with written proof in the form of official minutes giving permission for the debit cards to be issued. Non-profit debits are not protected against fraudulent use.

Billie-Renee moved to authorize the treasurer (Reed) and the president (Tish) and their successors to have a debit card for the KWI checking account at Capital City Bank for the operational expenses of KWI. Romie seconded the motion and it carried with a unanimous vote of the board members present (5 present/2 absent).

Auditing of books - Next month a board member and a member at large will need to audit the books. Shayne and Billie-Renee have volunteered to complete the audit. Idea for next month's meeting - panel discussion on character creation featuring Janet Stotts, Reaona Hemmingway, Billie-Renee Knight, and possibly Ian Hall.

Committee Reports:

Publicity Committee – none

Kudos:

None suggested.

NOTE: Please let your KWI Vice President know if you have any ideas for upcoming meetings – an interesting author who might share his or her story, or a subject you would like to see covered. We appreciate your input.

August Online Workshops

Organization Tips For Authors

Date: August 1–7, 2015

Presenter: Abigail Owen.

FMI, <http://contemporaryromance.org/events/>

Pitch Perfect

Date: August 1–15, 2015

Presenter: MM Pollard.

FMI, <http://www.oirwa.com/forum/campus/#AUG2>.

Sexual Tension–Getting Away from Wham, Bam, Thank you, Ma'am

Date: August 1–15, 2015

Presenter: Jeffe Kennedy.

FMI, <http://www.oirwa.com/forum/campus/#AUG1>.

Advanced Wordpress

Date: August 1–30, 2015

Presenter: Pepper O'Neal.

FMI, <http://www.marylandromancewriters.com/advanced-wordpress/>.

Writing Descriptions and Settings

Date: August 1–31, 2015

Presenter: Sarah Winn. FMI, <http://heartofcarolina.org/>.

Writing Short Stories to Promote Your Novel

Date: August 1–31, 2015

Presenter: Rayne Hall.

FMI, <http://www.oirwa.com/forum/campus/#AUG4>.

The Business of Writing 101

Date: August 3–19, 2015

Presenter: Beverly Diehl. FMI, <http://www.lararwa.com/laras-online-classes/>.

Beginning WordPress

Date: August 3–28, 2015

Presenter: Pepper O'Neal.

FMI, <http://lowcountryrwa.com/workshops/all-workshops/#AUG>.

Incorporating Humor into Your Writing

Date: August 3–28, 2015

Presenter: Ally Broadfield.

FMI, <http://www.carolinaromancewriters.com/online-workshop-schedule.html>

Continued on Page 4

Workshops, Continued:

Making Your Author Newsletter Work for You

Date: August 3–28, 2015
Presenter: Mary Caelsto.
FMI, <http://lowcountryrwa.com/workshops/all-workshops/#AUG>.

Plotting Your Book in a Month with Scrivener

Date: August 3–28, 2015
Presenter: Stephanie Dray.
FMI, <http://yarwa.com/programs>.

Soul of the Brand

Date: August 3–28, 2015
Presenter: Blythe Gifford.
FMI, <http://www.rwamysterysuspense.org/coffin>.

Violent Sexual Predators, Criminal Profiling

Date: August 3–28, 2015
Presenter: Pete Klismet, retired FBI Profiler.
FMI, <http://www.rwamysterysuspense.org/coffin>.

Writing from the Male POV

Date: August 3–28, 2015
Presenter: Sascha Illyvich.
FMI, <http://lowcountryrwa.com/workshops/all-workshops/#AUG>.

It's Not What You Say: Body Language Basics for Writers

Date: August 3–30, 2015
Presenter: Cassiel Knight.
FMI, http://rwasd.com/trainings/index_knight.html

Maximum Conflict

Date: August 3–August 31, 2015
Presenter: Shannon Donnelly
FMI, <http://www.romance-ffp.com/maximum-conflict/>

Anti-plotting: Take seat of your pants writing to the next level

Dates: August 10- 23, 2015
Presenter: Ruth Kaufman,
FMI:
<http://www.celtichearts.org/events/anti-plotting-take-seat-of-your-pants-writing-to-the-next-level/>

Revision Hel—No, Heaven

Dates: August 10–21, 2015
Presenter: Laurie Schnebly.
FMI, <http://www.oirwa.com/forum/campus/#AUG3>.

Deep Story I

Date: August 31–September 25, 2015
Presenter: Carol A. Hughes.
FMI, <http://fthrw.com/online-workshops>.

Start Spreading Your News With GIMP

Dates: August 10–21, 2015
Presenter: Sharon Clare.
Link, <http://www.neorwa.com/online-workshops/>.

Social Media for Writers

Presenter: Rebecca Lynn (w/a RL Syme).
FMI, <http://fthrw.com/online-workshops>.

Writing the Same-Sex Erotic Romance

Date: August 10–September 6, 2015
Presenters: Louisa Bacio and Tara Lain.
FMI, <http://www.occrwa.org/onlineclasses.html>.

Savvy Author Workshops

Dates: August 1- 30, 2015
FMI:
<http://ce.savvyauthors.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=Page.ViewPage&monthrequest=8&yearrequest=2015&pageId=488&parentPageId=487>

Mark Twain:

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Substitute “damn” every time you’re inclined to write “very”; your editor will delete it and your writing will be just as it should be.

Go to heaven for the climate, Hell for the company.

There are basically two types of people. People who accomplish things and people who claim to have accomplished things. The first group is less crowded.