

KWI: Kansas Writers Ink

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KWIPS 2013
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Morgan's Musings

I have come to regard the internet – in its entirety – as beautiful, evil, intriguing, evil, full of knowledge, evil, challenging and, you guessed it, evil.

The evilness actually comes from my own weakness (as most evil does) because the internet is a massive time sucker. When I'm not side-tracked playing a game or trying to think of a creative Facebook post, though, the information online that will help my writing career is tremendous. The challenge, I think, is being efficient at using online information without getting drawn into reading about writing without actually DOING any writing.

Here are a few valuable searches (or what I think is valuable) for Google: "top query letter mistakes" – This search yielded some great blog columns from agents,

reminding me also that I should never be querying an agent (or standing in front of one of them at a conference) without having read the agent's blog. Even reading other blogs within the same agency gives up lots of great info about the dynamics and focus of the agency. A few good ones: Rachel Gardner's website -- <http://www.rachellegardner.com/2012/07/query-mistakes/>; and this one is brilliant – a writer took the time to write 100 agents (50 responded) about the top mistakes writers make in query letters and then he compiled them for us. We should tip the guy. <http://www.jmtohline.com/2010/12/biggest-mistakes-writers-make-when.html>

"problems with opening fiction chapters" – This pulled up a number of blogs and thoughts from writing sites. A couple of my favorites:

<http://terribleminds.com/ramble/2012/05/29/25-things-to-know-about-writing-the-first-chapter/>

(loved that one!) and I loved all the opening lines of novels that this writer gathered - <http://www.darcypattison.com/revision/opening-lines/>.

Other searches that have pulled up interesting and stimulating stuff:

"kill your darlings writing" "agent blogs" – this pulled up a random blog, 5 literary blogs aspiring writers should read, which was great and led me to agent Nathan Bransford's blog – again, terrific.

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Thoughts of a Senior Citizen By Eleanor Liu

When I was young it was hard for me to realize I'd ever be old. As a child, I did have many friends who were old, however. One precious lady with whom I spent many hours was Mrs.

Alice Wright. She had four grown married children but no grandchildren. She made me her honorary grandchild – we each filled a void in the other's life. I was the second of six

children; she gave me her undivided attention – something always divided at home.

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May Workshops

by Angela Johnson

Synopsis Writing with the Plotting Wheel—plus—The Question of Queries

Dates: April 29–May 24, 2013
Presenter: Becky Martinez. FMI, visit <http://crw-rwa.ning.com/page/2013-onlineworkshops>.

Social Media Rock Stardom

Dates: April 29–May 24, 2013
Presenter: Lisa Pietsch. FMI, visit <http://crw-rwa.ning.com/page/2013-onlineworkshops>.

How to Write Page-Turning Suspense

Date: May 1, 2013
Presenter: Ezra Barany. FMI, <http://www.rwamysterysuspense.org/coffin.html>.

Psychological Factors of PTSD & Abuse Victims

Date: May 1, 2013
Presenter: Dr. Charlie Ferrer. FMI, <http://www.rwamysterysuspense.org/coffin.html>.

Realities of Paranormal Workshop

Date: May 1–15, 2013
Presenters: Renee Pellegrino and Rosa Pearl. FMI, <http://www.oirwa.com/forum/campus/#MAY4>.

Bigger Stories

Dates: May 1–29, 2013
Presenter: Peter Andrews. FMI, <http://lowcountryrwa.com/workshops/all-workshops/#MAY>.

Funny Business—Secrets of 'Writing Funny' for Novels and Short Stories

Dates: May 1–29, 2013
Presenter: Steve Shrott. FMI, <http://lowcountryrwa.com/workshops/all-workshops/#MAY>.

Market Your Book – and Remain Sane!

Dates: May 1–29, 2013
Presenter: Casey Dawes. FMI, <http://lowcountryrwa.com/workshops/all-workshops/#MAY>.

The Welsh Language (Cymry)

Dates: May 1–30, 2013
Presenter: Lily Dewaruille. FMI, <http://www.celtichearts.org/workshops>.

Not So West but Just As Weird: Weird East (Steampunk)

Date: May 1–31, 2013
Presenter: Beth Daniels. FMI, <http://www.oirwa.com/forum/campus/#MAY2>.

Show and Tell Workshop

Date: May 1–31, 2013
Presenter: Shannon Donnelly. FMI, <http://www.oirwa.com/forum/campus/#MAY3>.

Technology Basics for Writers

Date: May 1–31, 2013
Presenter: Pat Haggerty. FMI, <http://www.oirwa.com/forum/campus/#MAY1>.

Tips and Techniques for Effective Proof-reading

Date: May 1–31, 2013
Presenter: Ally Broadfield. FMI, Sam at [the-sambradley@gmail.com](mailto:sambradley@gmail.com) or www.bdrwa.com.

Not All Holiday Stories Have Glittering Trees: Writing Holiday-Themed Stories Year Round

Date: May 5–31, 2013
Presenter: Beth Daniels. FMI, e-mail neorwaonline@gmail.com or visit <http://www.neorwa.com/index.php/Workshops/Workshops>.

Web Design

Date: May 6–17, 2013
Presenter: Catherine Chant. FMI, <http://www.rwa.org/p/cm/ld/fid=749>.

Stumped Don't Slump—When the Muse Fails You

Date: May 6–20, 2013
Presenter: Marcia King-Gamble. FMI, <http://www.frwriters.org/events/online-workshops/>.

Ghosts Along the Silk Road and Beyond

Dates: May 6–20, 2013
Presenters: Jacquie Rogers and Ellis Flynn. FMI, <http://www.carolinaromancewriters.com/online-workshop-schedule.html>.

How to Write FAST

Date: May 6–31, 2013
Presenter: Peter Andrews. FMI, <http://www.yosemiteromancewriters.com>

Whose Story is This? The Nuts & Bolts of Point of View

Date: May 6–31, 2013
Presenter: Susan Palmquist. FMI, <http://www.yosemiteromancewriters.com>.

Deep Story Technique II

Date: May 6–June 1, 2013
Presenter: Carol Hughes. FMI, <http://www.starwa.org> / carolhenry@frontiernet.net.

Beyond Google

Date: May 6–June 2, 2013
Presenter: Ally Broadfield. FMI, <http://www.rwa.org/p/cm/ld/fid=753>.

DeMystifying Ménage

Date: May 6–June 2, 2013
Presenter: Louisa Bacio. FMI, www.passionateink.org/workshops.

Romantic Suspense Seeks Paranormal

Date: May 6–June 2, 2013
Presenter: Leslie Wainger. FMI, <http://www.rwa.org/p/cm/ld/fid=757>.

Deep POV

Dates: May 13–24, 2013
Presenter: Renee Wildes. FMI, visit <http://crw-rwa.ning.com/page/2013-onlineworkshops>.

Vampires Down the Silk Road and Beyond

Date: May 13–26, 2013
Presenter: Elis Flynn & Jacquie Rogers. FMI, <http://www.rwa.org/p/cm/ld/fid=723>.

Storytelling through the Anxiety Curve

Date: May 13–June 9, 2013
Presenter: Sally J Walker. FMI, <http://www.rwa.org/p/cm/ld/fid=761>.

Writing Inspirational

Date: May 13–June 9, 2013
Presenter: Nancy J. Farrier. FMI, <http://www.occrwa.org/onlineclasses.html>.

Archpaths—5 Character Paradigms for Any Story

Date: May 20–June 16, 2013
Presenter: Pamela Jaye Smith. FMI, <http://www.rwa.org/p/cm/ld/fid=765>.

Being Efficient at using Online Information

By Morgan Rothenberger

“plotting a book”

As you can see, I could give you lists and lists of great Google searches, and yes, none of us would get any writing done. But it's also important that we don't stagnate sitting at our desks, poking words onto the screen and failing to read anything else but our own work. Maybe setting

aside a limited amount of time (wow, that's a good idea I should maybe check out), say 15 minutes a day, to read something that will inspire you. Your searches can, of course, focus in on your personal favorites, such as “historical fiction” or “murdering crime sprees.”

Be careful though. I've

probably been on a government watch list since I googled “creating plastic explosives.”

Happy writing!



Put your internet surfing into good use and check out Morgan's suggested websites.

Review by B. R. Knight: *Create Your Writer Platform: The Key to Building an Audience, Selling More Books, and Finding Success as an Author* by Chuck Sambuchino

As an aspiring author I constantly see headlines and articles telling me how important it is for me to have a writer's platform in order to be successful in the publishing industry regardless of whether I choose to self-publish or go the traditional route with legacy publishing. So, I asked myself, what exactly is a writer's platform and how do I get one? Many of the articles I read spent a great deal of time talking up this writer's platform, but none really told me what it was exactly. Then I stumbled upon Chuck Sambuchino's book and finally found both the answer to my question and a clear, concise explanation on how to go about creating one for myself. My first hurdle was understanding exactly what was meant by writer's platform.

I thought, incorrectly as it turns out, that my writer's platform was a physical thing. Sambuchino, however, defines writer's platform as a writer's visibility as an author. Platform includes all the ways in which an author maintains a presence in the physical world. There are many tools an author can use to increase visibility. Sambuchino recommends that every author create a website. According to his book this is the single most important step in creating platform. He also recommends authors master social networking, such as Facebook and Twitter, but maintains a website, complete with blog, will form the basis of an author's effort toward creating visibility. The final component of the writer's platform is networking with

other authors and industry insiders. Sambuchino's book provides an easy to follow road map for creating the writer's platform, especially for a beginner who has never considered the necessity. The author includes several case studies and practical suggestions to help even the most stalwart technophobe get started with websites and social media sites.

Create Your Writer Platform: The Key to Building an Audience, Selling More Books, and Finding Success as an Author by Chuck Sambuchino. Writer Digest's Books, 2012
ISBN-13: 978-1-59963-575-0

“It's none of their business that you have to learn how to write. Let them think you were born that way.” - Ernest Hemingway

Words of Wisdom by Eleanor Liu

I loved hearing her tell of when she was girl, looking at her pictures and keepsakes. But I looked on those who were old as someone I would never be - but here I am! We all grow old if we don't die young.

Some of the best advice I can give to younger people is to appreciate your place in life - where you are now. Don't look back with regret or wish time would pass but live each day to your highest ideals. Always try to make the age you are your loveliest age.

Love can make duty a privilege and turn responsibility into a joy. If you have little children savor each day with them and enjoy them. They do grow up and looking back it seems that it all passed so quickly. The best thing to spend on children is time. The dishes and the dusting can wait - the children won't. A friend of mine says there are three ways to dust - you can dust every little figurine and everything else thoroughly, just dust the main open spaces or you can write "welcome" in the dust on the piano or table.

One of my best memories is a time when I let the housework go and went out and flew kites with my two children. They remember it too. Things I regret are the many times I was too busy to do things with them. I guess I did spend a good bit of time with them though because my daughter says ours was the only house in the neighborhood where children would come and ask "Can your mother come out to play?" The future is a time when you may wish you'd done what you aren't doing now.

Memory is a great gift - we can look back and remember and relive happy times spent with our husbands, children, parents, friends and beautiful things we've seen. I've always loved William Wordsworth's poem "Daffodils". After describing a lovely scene of thousands of blooms, he says:

"And oft as on my couch I lie
In vacant or in pensive mood
They flash upon that inward eye
Which is the bliss of solitude.
And then my heart with rapture fills
And dances with the daffodils."

But memory can hold sad, bad and regretful things too. We need to do our best to make good remembrances: "The tissue of the life to be

We weave with colors all our own
And on the fields of destiny
We reap as we have sown". Anon.

We also need laughter - it's part of God's therapy, Proverbs 17:22 says "A merry heart doeth good like a medicine."

We should smile and expect the best - not frown and expect the worst. Here's a little poem, I like;

"Keep your face with sunshine lit,
Laugh a little bit! If you have the wit and grit
Just to laugh a little bit!" J.B. Cook

Goethe said "It is not doing the thing we like, but liking the thing we have to do, that makes life happy!"

We need to make the rest of life - the best of life. We must prepare ourselves for old age. Proverbs 14:30 tells us to be tranquil and content. "A sound heart is the life of the flesh, but envy is rottenness to the bones".

Whittier wrote: "Take from our lives the strain and stress
And let our ordered lives confess the beauty of thy peace".

The evening of life stretches into the morning of eternity. We must face the fact that death and eternity are inevitable and strive to be prepared. We cannot live to ourselves. Even in our later years we have an obligation to others. Christianity involves going, sending, teaching, giving and sharing with others the gifts we possess.

We need older people. They can give us inspiration. From their experience we can take advantage of their advice, guidance and example. We can make our own lives richer by touching the lives of those who are older.

Oliver Wendell Holmes said - "To be 70 years young is sometimes far more cheerful and hopeful than to be 40 years old". Age does not make one old but attitude can and will.

God is the best beautician. He can put light in our eyes, loveliness in our faces, and sweetness in our character and happiness in our hearts. We must believe in ourselves. Live in the sunshine - grow old graciously.

Proverbs 11:16 tells us - "A gracious

woman retaineth honor".

We must realize we have an appointment that we cannot fail to keep. Hebrews 9:27 - "It is appointed unto man once to die".

I like the saying by Tagore - "Death is not putting out the light, it is extinguishing the lamp because the dawn has come".

Only the fearful and unbelieving should fear growing old. Psalms 92:15 says "They shall bring forth fruit in old age."

Consider Caleb and Sarah. Sarah bore a child at age 90. Caleb was overshadowed by Joshua but he wanted to climb that mountain at age 85. Read about him in Joshua 14:6-13. Most people are trying to find a place to rest instead of climbing a mountain at that age.

Cato began to study Greek at 80, Tennyson wrote "Crossing the Bar" at 83 and Verdi wrote "Ave Maria" at 85. Others to consider are: Webster, Churchill, Eisenhower, Adam Clark, Robert Frost, Carl Sandburg and Grandma Moses.

Don't quit! Persevere! Browning wrote: "Come, grow old along with me, the best is yet to be." Swift wrote "No wise man ever wished to be younger".

William Cullen Bryant in *Thanatopsis* advised us to so live that: "By an unfaltering trust approach thy grave. As one who draws the draperies of his couch About him and lies down to pleasant dreams".

I have traveled widely and seen many beautiful and remarkable things in this world, but God's word tells us that "Eye hath not seen nor ear heard, neither has entered into the heart of man the things God has prepared for them that love Him". 1 Corinthians 2:9 quoting Isaiah 64:4

GOD BLESS US - EVERYONE

Message from Billie-Renee Knight

Financial Update

Beginning Balance: \$3068.70
Receipts: \$125.00
Ending Balance: \$3193.70

Hi, I will be taking over the website management for KWI and I would like to set up a members page with photos and biographies for our members. I will also need to know if you write under a pen name and you prefer that to be the name publicized on our site. Once I get things set up if there are changes or corrections, please feel free to email me and let me know. I am looking forward to hearing from everyone! Thanks.

Contact Billie-Renee at knightdrk2@yahoo.com

Kudos

Congrats to KWI member Carey Kennedy. Her chapter for the TSCPL Community Novel was posted online this past week. It's very good and you should check it out! More members participating in the project will be announced later.

Announcements

Meeting on April 27th, 2013 @10:00
At 1:00pm. Mark Bouton will present
on Query Letters and Novel Synopses.

Writing in Top-City

By Romie Chavez

The other day as I was taking a "break," from writing, (as I'm sure we all do on occasion.) I came across a TV show called *Awkward*. It's your typical teenage soap drama. But surprisingly, it's kinda funny. Definitely geared more toward this generation's pop culture-social media addicted-Honey Boo Boo's.

There was a scene where the main character, Jenna, is enrolled in creative writing class by mistake. She doesn't want to be in it because the teacher is a real ball-buster. As I was watching, the teacher, played by *Breakfast Club*

alumn, Anothny Michael Hall, had some very powerful things to say on writing.

Here is what Hall's character had to say:

"Writing is about conquering your f***ing fears. It's about putting onto paper the thing that you are most afraid to share."

As writers, we try to takes risks all the time, even if the end result lies in failure. The important thing to remember is to keep writing. Conquer your fear of rejections, judgments, and critiques. Take the risk and keep writing. You'll be

surprised what you can accomplish.

With all the chaos in the world, writers are needed now more than ever. We should write about things we're afraid to share. It's what we do best. Even the most fundamental fiction or non-fiction has some aspect of the writers soul within its pages. It's up the reader to pick up on the clues and take away from it what they will. If you can get the reader to pause and reflect on your own words, then you've done your job!