

# KWI: Kansas Writer's Ink

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KWI'S 2013

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## Morgan's Musings

Plotting. Just typing the word makes my blood pressure go up. I have buried myself in the idea of "seat of the pants" plotting for years, using that as an excuse for not doing the real work of writing. I get to the middle of the book and my action slumps, and I just meander along, refusing to do what I know I need to do.

I'm done with that. I'm going to plot out the \*) &\* book and get it written. So I've been researching plotting ideas/methods and came across some great articles I thought I'd share. An excellent article from Lisa Gardner, for instance, entitled "Plotting the Novel: Otherwise known as the real reason writers are neurotic."

As you can imagine, the title alone drew me in. (I'd like to think all my neuroses can be blamed on writing.) [Click here to go to the article.](#) Gardner's helpful article is interspersed with comments like, "Down two aspirin and get serious." She puts

a "Corresponding Emotional State" for each section of the work, and they usually made me laugh. ("Corresponding Emotional State (for Serious Outline Attempt section): Nervous breakdown. Why did I think I could write this book? Why did I think I could write? My plot sucks, my characters suck. I have no conflict, no goals, and a resolution a two-year old could deduce. Screw brownies. Must get Hershey's cocoa and find a vein!")

Gardner offers questions that help you assess your plot. Things like, "Are too many scenes alike, e.g., hero/heroine talking, eating, walking all the time, etc. My editor once complained about a book where every single scene took place in a doorway. That's just odd."

I also liked the "Snowflake Method" outlined by Randy Ingermanson. [Click here to read about it.](#) I like the way he builds the plot using this method, starting out by answering basic questions

and then adding in the layers.

Another fun Google search was "plotting problems," which brought up a host of articles that yielded insight into what is causing my manuscript to be blah. I stumbled across an editor's website, A. Victoria Mixon, who featured discussions about editing books. One of these discussions focused on plot and, while simplistic, helped to define the importance of plot and what elements make plots work. [Click here to read that article.](#)

Now, it's time. Time to stop googling "plotting." Time to quit reading about plotting and actually start plotting.

It's time to get this darn book done.

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## August Workshops

By **Angela Johnson**

### **The Chaos Theory: Into Every Manuscript Some Mayhem Must Fall**

Date: August 1, 2013  
Presenter: Beth Daniels. FMI, <http://www.rwamysterysuspense.org/coffin.html>.

### **Motivating Your Characters: He Shot the Sheriff and I Know Why**

Date: August 1, 2013  
Presenter: Ann Roth. FMI, <http://www.rwamysterysuspense.org/coffin.html>.

### **Male POV: Creating Better Heroes**

Date: August 1–15, 2013  
Presenter: Sascha Illyvich. FMI, <http://www.oirwa.com/forum/campus/#AUG3>.

### **Making Sense of the Wordy English Language**

Date: August 1–28, 2013  
Presenter: MM Pollard. FMI, <http://www.starrwa.org/carol-henry@frontiernet.net>.

### **Punctuating Your Way to a Contract**

Date: August 1–28, 2013  
Presenter: MM Pollard. FMI, [www.passionateink.org/workshops](http://www.passionateink.org/workshops).

### **Deep Story—What Does Nora Roberts Know That You Don't?**

Dates: August 1–29, 2013  
Presenter: Carol Hughes. FMI, <http://lowcountryrwa.com/workshops/all-workshops/#AUG>.

### **World Building**

Dates: August 1–29, 2013  
Presenter: Monette Michaels. FMI, <http://lowcountryrwa.com/workshops/all-workshops/#AUG>.

### **Writing Sex When You Don't Feel Sexy**

Dates: August 1–29, 2013  
Presenter: Suzanne Rock. FMI, <http://lowcountryrwa.com/workshops/all-workshops/#AUG>.

### **King Arthur's Country**

Dates: August 1–30, 2013  
Presenter: Jean Drew. FMI, <http://www.celtichearts.org/workshops>.

### **Contests: The Basics**

Date: August 1–31, 2013  
Presenter: Alexa Bourne. FMI, <http://www.oirwa.com/forum/campus/#AUG1>.

### **Grammar and Style Basics**

Date: August 1–31, 2013  
Presenter: Kat Duncan. FMI, <http://www.oirwa.com/forum/campus/#AUG4>.

### **Take Your Q**

Dates: August 4–18, 2013  
Presenter: Laurie Schnebly. FMI, <http://lowcountryrwa.com/workshops/all-workshops/#AUG>.

### **Creating Memorable Heroes: One Movie at a Time**

Date: August 4–24, 2013  
Presenter: Mina Khan. FMI, <http://fthrw.com/online-workshops>, e-mail [workshops@fthrw.com](mailto:workshops@fthrw.com).

### **Q is for Query, A is for Aaack!**

Date: August 5–16, 2013  
Presenter: Laurie Schnebly Campbell. FMI, <http://www.oirwa.com/forum/campus/#AUG2>.

### **Demystifying Scrivener**

Date: August 5–30, 2013  
Presenter: Pat Haggerty. FMI, <http://heartofcarolina.org/calendar/>.

### **The Query Conundrum**

Date: August 5–30, 2013  
Presenter: Kerri Nelson. FMI, <http://www.yosemiteromancewriters.com>.

### **Historical Angles: Writing Historical Fiction**

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

### **Telling, Not Showing, and Using Adjectives and Adverbs to Tell**

Date: August 12–25, 2013  
Presenter: MM Pollard. FMI, <http://www.frwriters.org/events/online-workshops/>

### **Angels Along the Silk Road and Beyond**

Dates: August 12–26, 2013  
Presenters: Jacquie Rogers and Eilis Flynn. FMI, <http://www.carolinaromancewriters.com/online-workshop-schedule.html>.

### **Chick Lit Course: Draft your manuscript and learn how to get an agent**

Date: August 12–October 4, 2013  
Presenter: Kate Rockland. FMI, <http://rwachicklit.wordpress.com/workshops/chick-lit-course/> / Lisa [lisalaisalisa@gmail.com](mailto:lisalaisalaisalisa@gmail.com).

### **Taming the Twitterverse**

Date: August 13–15, 2013  
Presenter: TL Costa. FMI, visit <http://ctrwa.org>.

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## Opportunity to Get Published!

Greetings all,

I'm writing to inform everyone about an awesome opportunity to get published. About a year ago, members participated in a writing contest called the Bloody Gavel. A winner was chosen and there was discussion about collecting all the stories for a possible group published e-book. Well, after nearly a year (so sorry it took so long), we decided to go ahead and put everything together. A meeting was held on Saturday May 25<sup>th</sup>, following the KWI meeting, in which we decided to go ahead and only publish an e-book entitled, *Bloody Gavel*. With that said, we are extending an offer out to the rest of the members to see if you still want to get in on this fantastic opportunity. See below for more details.

### **Bloody Gavel E-Book**

This is your opportunity to get in on the group E-Book. Write a Bloody Gavel story—5000 words or less—submit it by August 25th, 2013 to Morgan. She will edit and it will be included in the Bloody Gavel Anthology. Ian Hall will be designing the cover and if you've seen his work, you know it's going to be awesome!

### **KWI Last Line Contest**

And now you have another opportunity to get published with a new contest! For those that participated in the First Line contest in January, we talked about putting together another anthology using first lines and last lines. Thus, the KWI Last Line Contest was born. The contest is open to ALL MEMBERS.

You must write a short story of 5,000 words or less. Next, you will take one of the previous first lines in your last submis-

sion and make them the last line of a new story. In case you forgot what the lines were, here they are: "She would go to hell for what she was about to do," or "I distinctly remember blowing this motherfucker up a few days ago." Deadline for submissions will be September 8th, 2013. Please send entries to Morgan. Upon request, she will edit the stories for you. Please allow two weeks for editing/polishing, with a tentative completion date of October 13th, 2013.

This is a fantastic opportunity for the group. Please consider participating! If you have any questions, please contact me, Morgan, or Carey Kennedy and we will do our best to answer them.

www.kswritersinc.com  
www.kswriters.wordpress.com

Message from Billie-Renee Knight

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

**Financial Report**

**June Beginning Balance:  
\$2,953.70**

**June Ending Balance:  
\$2,953.70**

Next meeting: July 27th, 2013  
10:00 AM—2:00 PM  
Location: Topeka Shawnee  
County Public Library

**Upcoming Topeka-Shawnee County Public Library Programs**

Fiction Writing Nanowrimo  
Webinar

Shake up your writing routine and recharge your imagination with a 90-minute webinar that challenges those who love to outline and those who write by the seat of their pants. National Novel Writing Month founder Chris Baty leads this session for fiction writers.

Where: Marvin Auditorium  
101C  
When: Tue Sept 17<sup>th</sup> 6:30-8:45

SpeakEasy Community Novel  
Book Launch Party

Honor the work of 20 Topeka authors who penned SpeakEasy, our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Community

Novel. Meet the authors, editors, and librarians involved and have them sign your print copy of the completed book. Or read it online at [tsopl.org/community-novel](http://tsopl.org/community-novel). Bring your questions about self-publishing or how to be part of our next Community Novel Project.

Where: Marvin Auditorium  
When: Sunday Sept. 8th, 2013  
3:00pm-5:00pm

The Friends of the Library Book  
Sale

September 20<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>. Kansas Expo-centre AG Hall

Friday 6:00-9:00 NEW THIS YEAR! \$5 ADMISSION FOR non-members- Friends Still Get In Free! Memberships sold at the door.

Saturday 9:00am-5:00pm  
Sun 10:00am -5:00pm Free Admission

More information call 785-580-4445 or 580-4443