

KWI: Kansas Writer's Ink

Volume 15, No. 6

June 2013

KWI'S 2013

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Recharging the Writing Batteries with a Change of Scenery

By Billie-Renee Knight

I wrote last month about setting goals and sticking to them. Even though I am on vacation for the next two months from my full time teaching position and I am a thousand miles away from home, I am still writing every day and honing my skills. I have been lucky to have the opportunity to spend my vacation time in Wyoming where I am enjoying the great outdoors, the cooler weather, and the abundance of wildlife. I have only been here for a week and yet I have filled ten pages of my writing journal with ideas for stories and ad-

ditions to previously outlined works in progress. My brain is swimming in ideas and creative juices. There simply doesn't seem to be enough time in the day (or night) to commit everything to paper. This change in scenery and its effect on my writing got me to thinking. Even when I don't have the opportunity to go away for a vacation, I still find it valuable at times to shake up my writing routine by going to a different location. Normally I write either at my dining room table or my desk at home. Leaving the house and going somewhere

new to write for a while has much the same effect as going on vacation. I feel more awake and more creative. There are many places to visit that are conducive to writing, either with your laptop or with pen and paper. Some of my favorites include local coffee shops, books shops, and the library. I'm not usually one who enjoys sitting outside and risking sunburn or insect bites, but I have written at a picnic table in Gage Park or even on my patio.

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Ian's Musings

By Ian Hall

I never really intended to write any of my novels. I just started writing, and a sentence became a short story, then the short story became a chapter, then, a few years/months later, out popped a book

into the cradling arms of its Daddy: me.

But when I began "A Connecticut Vampire in King Arthur's Court", I had a complete goal in my mind. Not only a

novel, but a trilogy, plot lines, titles everything. It wasn't like me at all. I had the 'hook'...

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July Workshops

Murder, Mayhem and Psychic Maneuvers

Date: July 1, 2013
Presenter: Mary O'Gara. FMI,
[http://
www.rwamysterysuspense.org/coffin.html](http://www.rwamysterysuspense.org/coffin.html).

Sins Against the Sentence and How to Atone for Them

Date: July 1, 2013
Presenter: MM Pollard. FMI,
[http://
www.rwamysterysuspense.org/coffin.html](http://www.rwamysterysuspense.org/coffin.html).

Mistakes Authors Make When Submitting to Publishers

Date: July 1–7, 2013
Presenter: Jaye Roycraft.
FMI, e-mail neor-waonline@gmail.com or visit <http://www.neorwa.com/index.php/Workshops/Workshops>.

The Art of Writing the Blurb

Date: July 1–14 2013
Presenter: Beth Fred. FMI,
lelo5054@sbcglobal.net
www.bdrwa.com.

Sizzling Synopses & Captivating Queries

Date: July 1–July 25, 2013
Presenter: Pat Hauldren. FMI,
<http://www.fthrw.com/workshops/classes.php> or e-mail workshops@fthrw.com.

Are You Pitchworthy? (All You Need to Know to Score Big with your Book's Pitch)

Date: July 1–26, 2013
Presenter: Kerri Nelson. FMI,
<http://www.yosemiteromancewriters.com>.

MS Word for Writers

Date: July 1–26, 2013
Presenter: Catherine Chant. FMI,
<http://www.oirwa.com/forum/campus/#JUL1>.

Developing an Active Voice for Emotional Impact

Dates: July 1–29, 2013
Presenter: Kat Duncan. FMI,
<http://lowcountryrwa.com/workshops/all-workshops/#JUL>.

Creating a Captivating Online Presence

Date: July 1–31, 2013
Presenter: Pat Hauldren. FMI,
<http://www.oirwa.com/forum/campus/#JUL3>.

Editing Your Novel from the Inside Out: How to deal with the panic and fear and master the editing process

Date: July 1–31, 2013
Presenter: Beth Barany. FMI,
<http://www.oirwa.com/forum/campus/#JUL2>.

By Angela Johnson

An Editor's View of the Literary Sales Package—Query Letters, Cover Letters, & Synopses From An Editor's Point Of View

Date: July 1–31, 2013
Presenter: Laurie Sanders. FMI,
<http://www.oirwa.com/forum/campus/#JUL4>.

Vampires and Werewolves Along the Silk Road & Beyond

Dates: July 1–31, 2013
Presenters: Jacquie Rogers and Eilis Flynn. FMI,
<http://www.carolinaromancewriters.com/online-workshop-schedule.html>.

Apostrophe Apathy and Comma Chaos

Dates: July 8–21, 2013
Presenter: MM Pollard. FMI,
<http://lowcountryrwa.com/workshops/all-workshops/#JUL>.

Writing a Good Bad Guy

Dates: July 8–21, 2013
Presenter: Kat Duncan. FMI,
<http://lowcountryrwa.com/workshops/all-workshops/#JUL>.

Writer's Retreat Renews Creativity

By: Billie-Renee Knight

Like most writers I know, I carry a notepad with me at all times to jot down ideas and whatnot as they come to me. Sometimes you're out and about and the perfect scene comes to you full blown and you just have to get it down in writing before it disappears. I had just such an epiphany this past Monday while visiting Yellowstone

Park. Fortunately, my older sister and traveling companion was accommodating and pulled over to the side of the road so I could get it all down in my notebook right then. There was definitely something inspiring about the grand vistas and breathtakingly beautiful wildlife that revved up my creative juices and recharged my

writing batteries. I will return home knowing I have found yet another secret weapon for my writing arsenal – the change of scenery gambit to inspire new thoughts and regain focus.



Wyoming's beautiful landscapes recharge author B.R. Knight's batteries.

Author Gets the 'Hook.'

By Ian Hall

Mark twain's book of similar title would get me recognition. I had the genre... Time travelling vampire; Doctor Who meets Dracula, a Bram Stoker's Sam Beckett gone haywire. I had the reluctant flawed character, racked with guilt, needing to squeeze revenge out of the situation. On his own, out of his depth, and no vampire buddies to fall back on.

And I had the 'history'... The deeply researched rich tapestry of Tudor England, with a twist; I was telling the story of a Prince that most people didn't know; Prince Arthur, eldest son of Henry the Seventh, big brother of Henry the Eighth, and first husband of Catherine of Aragon. Called Arthur as a throwback to England's glorious mythical ages, he was a boy born to unite two warring factions in

England. A unifying entity to end the bitter rivalries of the War of the Roses. He ended up being neither

So on the first line, I threw my character in at the deep end; a time-travelling vampire, thrown back five hundred and twelve years, and a quarter of the earth's diameter.

Completely immersing myself in the project, in my first day I wrote 2000 words. I followed that pace for at least another ten days before faltering. I wrote the whole 68,500 words in 51 days. I knew the punishing pace would be difficult at times, but little did I know it would be so much fun! I loved every page of it, and couldn't keep the baby to myself. And I stopped. I had a day off.

Then I sat the next morning, wondering what to write, and another 2000 words fell from

my digitalized pen. Then another 2000. I'm five days into book 2; "A Connecticut Vampire in Queen Mary's Court", and already crossed the 10,000 word barrier. I've set myself a target; a trilogy in six months. But we all have stories in our heads. We all have time to sit at the computer. We all wonder if we'll ever get published, if we'll ever get discovered, if we'll ever get famous. But we won't find any of the above if we don't write. And don't think 'luck' is all you need. Samuel Goldwyn once said; "The harder I work, the luckier I get." And as I sit at my computer tomorrow morning, churning out my next 2000 words, I'll pray that I'll get luckier too.

"There is more treasure in books than in all the pirates' loot on Treasure Island."
—Walt Disney

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

KWI:

Beginning Balance for May:
\$3,193.70
Revenue: 0
Expenses: \$240.00
Ending Balance May 31:
\$2,953.70

Next meeting: June 22nd, 2013

10:00 AM—2:00 PM

Location: Topeka Shawnee
County Public Library

April Secretary Report

Kansas Writers, Inc.
Minutes of Business Meeting
Saturday, April 27, 2013
Topeka Shawnee County Public
Library Topeka, KS

President Morgan Chilson opened
the meeting at 1230

Members present: Morgan, Tish,
Mark, Patricia, Leslie, Billie-
Renee, Romie, Carey, Lynne, Jane
Stotts, Cheryl Heide, Reaona, Ja-
son

Minutes: No meeting in March
due to annual retreat

Correspondence: None

Treasurer's Report For Febru- ary 2013

Beginning Cash Balance (Current
Month) \$3,117.36 (YTD)
\$3,384.36
Total Operating Income (Current
Month) \$ 0.00 (YTD) \$ 540.00

Total Operating Expenses (Current
Month) \$ 108.66 (YTD) \$ 855.66
Income (loss) (current month) \$ <
108.66> (YTD) \$ <315.66>
ENDING CASH BALANCE:
\$3,068.70

Treasurer's Report For March 2013

Beginning Cash Balance (Current
Month) \$3068.70 (YTD) \$3384.36
Total Operating Income (Current
Month) \$ 125.00 (YTD) \$ 665.00
Total Operating Expenses (Current
Month) \$ 0.00 (YTD) \$ 855.66
Income (loss) (current month) \$ 125.00
(YTD) \$ <190.66>
ENDING CASH BALANCE:
\$3193.70

Unfinished Business: We need
blogs :)

New Business:

- Carey will spearhead getting the stories from the short story contests gathered and placed on Amazon as an anthology. Everybody who wrote a story needs to look at/

edit it as needed and then send to Morgan for a final once over.

- Should we move next years writing retreat to April?
- Tallgrass writing workshop in Emporia June 2-3. Mark will be speaking on the Nuts and Bolts of writing a novel. Can send in ten pages to be critiqued and the person who critiqued it will meet with you.

Committee Reports: None

Kudos/Announcements: None

Newsletter items: All items to be sent to Romie (he kindly sends out reminders)

Next Meeting: May 25th. Morgan will speak about marketing Meeting Adjourned at 1253

Respectfully submitted,
Bear, Secretary