

KWI: KS Writers Ink

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September 18th, 2012

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Morgan's Musings

One of the things I like the most about being a writer is the joy of finding word nuggets that make my heart sing. Oh yeah, it's geeky. Nerdy. Possibly a deep-rooted problem. But I love to hear or read a new twist of words that makes me say, "Damn, I wish I'd written that."

It's not always about cleverness or specific words, either. Sometimes it's about character development – watching the slow progression as the writer, inch by inch, builds a heroine or hero into someone you want to invite to dinner. Or explore human anatomy with.

I recently read *Ill Winds* by Nevada Barr. The heroine, Anna, is a national park ranger who stumbles across dead bodies with alarming regularity. While the plot was good, Barr's gift with shaping characters pushed me to think about the depth and descriptions of my own. Snappy dialogue was a strong part of the novel.

It's one reason I read everything Topeka author Max Yoho writes. He weaves words into complicated knots that unravel into unforgettable characters and descriptions.

From *Me & Aunt Izzy*:

For the next three days, Grandpa Porterfield belched. I'm talking the unplanned, unauthorized, unbiased free-hand belching not likely heard since that old whale ate Jonah.

-and-

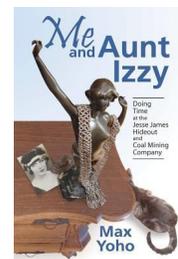
(A young boy is sent to live with his great aunt for the summer because he burned down a privy) If anybody ought to get the blame for burning down the privy, it's the dumb school! If anyone ever asks me, "Which is more important for a boy to learn: How to spell the word 'Constantinople'? –or— Should a fellow ever try to roll a cigar out of toilet paper and dried dock weed leaves?" I just guess you know what I'll tell them.

Max could have just told us about burning down the privy, but instead, he dove into that boy's head and looked at the world from his character's standpoint. And what a way to describe unending belching!

But it's not just in reading that I find tidbits that spaz my creative juices. On an episode of *Bones* last year, the hubby

(whose pregnant wife was being a tad hormonal), Booth, said something like, "I get this. You're a propeller and I'm about to walk right into you. I'm stepping back." Not an exact quote, but I loved that! What a great way to describe her mood. You don't have to know anything about the situation, and I probably could have left off the intro about her pregnancy. The listener immediately gets a sense of where she is coming from – and Booth's sense of self protection too!

Continued page 3



Eleven-year old Jefferson Davis Johnson has been sentenced to a summer of "moral rehabilitation" under the watchful eye of his great aunt, Queen Isabella of Spain Johnson. A relic of the "roaring twenties," this stern

October Workshops By Angela Johnson

How to Run an Amazon Campaign

Dates: October 1-14, 2012

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

Incorporating Humor into Your Writing

Dates: October 1–15, 2012

Presenter: Ally Broadfield. FMI, <http://www.celtichearts.org/workshops.html>.

Male POV

Dates: October 1–15, 2012

Presenter: Sascha Illyvich. FMI, <http://www.oirwa.com/forum/campus/#OCT3>

Theme & Motif: What's it all about?

Date: October 1–21, 2012

Presenter: Kate Freiman. FMI, <http://www.passionateink.org/workshops/>.

How to Save Your Writing From Common Errors

Dates: October 1 – 27, 2012

Presenter: MM Pollard, English teacher extraordinaire, FMI, <http://crw-rwa.ning.com/page/2012-onlineworkshops>.

A Writer's Guide to Harry Potter

Date: October 1–28, 2012

Presenter: SP Sipal. FMI, <http://www.romance-ffp.com/workshops.cfm>.

Firearms for Writers

Date: October 1–28, 2012

Presenter: Lucinda Schroeder. FMI, <http://www.romance-ffp.com/workshops.cfm>.

Tips and Techniques for More Effective Proofreading

Date: October 1–28, 2012

Presenter: Ally Broadfield. FMI, <http://www.yosemiteromancewriters.net/id33.html>.

Paranormal: Brainstorming to Revision

Date: October 1–30, 2012

Presenter: Angela Knight. FMI, <http://www.romance-ffp.com/workshops.cfm>.

Fang-Dangle Your Fantasy with Urban Delight

Dates: October 1–31, 2012

Presenter: Pat Hauldren. FMI, <http://www.oirwa.com/forum/campus/#OCT4>.

Curing the 'What Comes After the First Three Chapters?' Blues

Dates: October 1-31, 2012

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

Killer Openings

Date: October 1–31, 2012

Presenter: Alexa Bourne. FMI, Amanda at mrsgodiva@comcast.net or www.bdrwa.com.

Putting the Suspense in Romantic Suspense

Date: October 1–31, 2012

Presenter: Dee Lloyd. FMI, <http://www.oirwa.com/forum/campus/#OCT>.

“W” Plot...Or The Other White Meat for Plotters

Date: October 1–31, 2012

Presenter: Karen Doctor. FMI, <http://www.oirwa.com/forum/campus/#OCT>.

I Used to Hate Writing a Synopsis

Dates: October 5–28, 2012

Presenter: Susan Palmquist. FMI, <http://lrwa.thinkflowdesign.com/online-workshops/#OCT>.

Basics Bootcamp

Dates: October 5–28, 2012

Presenter: Gina Ardito. FMI, <http://lrwa.thinkflowdesign.com/online-workshops/#OCT>.

Writing Steamy Sex Scenes: Making Your Readers Beg for More

Dates: October 5–28, 2012

Presenter: Suzanne Rock. FMI, <http://lrwa.thinkflowdesign.com/online-workshops/#OCT>.

Urban Fantasy—More Vamp for Your Tramp, More Bang for Your Fang

Dates: October 5–28, 2012

Presenter: Pat Hauldren. FMI, <http://lrwa.thinkflowdesign.com/online-workshops/#OCT>.

OMG, I *Heart* It: Writing the YA That Teens Will Love

Dates: October 5–28, 2012

Presenter: Suzanne Lazear. FMI, <http://lrwa.thinkflowdesign.com/online-workshops/#OCT>.

Writing Back Cover Blurbs That Sell

Date: October 8–21, 2012

Presenter: Theresa Meyers. FMI, <http://www.romance-ffp.com/workshops.cfm>.

Build Your Website with Joomla

Date: October 8–November 11, 2012

Presenter: Pepper O'Neal. FMI, <http://www.romance-ffp.com/workshops.cfm>.

Conquering National Writers Month

Date: October 15–November 11, 2012

Presenter: Alison Diem. FMI, <http://www.occrwa.org/onlineclasses.html>.

Writing Scary Scenes

Dates: October 15–November 26, 2012

Presenter: Rayne Hall. FMI, <http://www.celtichearts.org/workshops.html>.

Finding Word Nuggets cont. from page 1

These nuggets push me to be a better writer, to go back through my manuscript and delete the clichés or time-worn phrases and be creative. That’s my challenge for this next month. Look through your manuscript and make some changes to sharpen your writing. If you’re feeling brave, send your “before” and “after” words to Romie to put in next month’s newsletter.

I’ll go first:

BEFORE: Even with a frown and two-day growth of beard, which gave him a harder look, she wasn’t the least bit nervous. She put her hands on her hips and frowned up at him.

AFTER: A snarly frown tightened his face to hard angles. She anchored her hands to her hips and frowned back.

Hmmm. I somewhat randomly pulled those two sentences for this article. Not completely sure about the rewrite . . . but I do know that I can delete the nervous part because her action and stance show a lack of nerves.

We say “hard angles” a lot in writing . . . or “hard looks,” etc. Wonder if I can improve on that?

AFTER: A snarly frown tightened his skin for an instant face-lift. NO.

AFTER: A snarly frown tightened his face, and she almost expected to see spittle drip from his retracted lips. LOL.

Okay. I’m quitting now. I think I’m staying with the first rewrite.

Happy writing!

‘Some books are to be tasted, others to be swallowed, and some few to be chewed and digested.’ - Francis Bacon in his Essays of 1625

September’s Writing Meeting: Into The Sentence-tific Lab By Igor

If we could compare writing to the science of chemistry, then the equivalent to words would be atoms. Each atom, comprised of a set number of neutrons, protons, or electrons, has unique properties, certain strengths and weaknesses inherit to its composition. While there are only 118 atoms in the periodic chart, there’s an estimated one million words in the English language, growing by 8,000 to 25,000 words per year. (OMG!) When we combine atoms in the proper ratios, perhaps adding a little heat or pressure for good measure, we start making molecules. Similarly, if we combine words in the right combinations, with a little editing for good measure, we can make lexical molecules—otherwise known as sentences.

What makes one sentence “work” better than another? Is

it just luck, or are there others forces at play within the sentence? At the next writers meeting, starting in the morning and continuing through the afternoon, we’ll be viewing the first four parts of a lecture series that analyzes sentence structures. Each part runs for 30 minutes. An outline for each part will be provided.

We’ll flop sentences onto the examination table and break them apart to find their hearts, their kernels, learning the difference between clauses and phrases in the process. (Ensuring nobody slips and falls, there will be plenty of sawdust scattered on the floor to absorb the goopy bits.) We’ll discover that a sentence’s skeleton can be rearranged, foot bones connected to shoulder bones as it were, so the sentence moves better when we turn it upside down. Each writer will have the opportunity to answer, to his or her satis-

faction, the rhetorical question, “Is it better to be longer?”

Lab coats are optional in the lab, but writers (or aspiring mad scientists) are encouraged to attend this informative—and hopefully enjoyable—lecture series.



Igor promises a to inspire the mad scientist in all writers during September’s workshop.

www.kansaswritersinc.com
www.kswriters.wordpress.com

Special Message

Hello,

My name is Lucy Walton and I work at Female First online magazine. I have recently set up a creative writing section to the magazine and am currently looking for submissions. If you could pass this link onto all the members in your writing group I would be very grateful!

<http://www.femalefirst.co.uk/books/short+stories%2C+artwork%2C+poems-227976.html>

If any of you are recently published and looking to promote your book or poetry collection I would love to do an email interview with you! We have 1.3 million readers per month so if this is something you are interested in please do not hesitate to drop me an email!

Kind Regards,
Lucy

Lucy Walton, Book Reviews, Culture and Get Published Editor

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www.femalefirst.co.uk | Telephone: 01942 272 814 | Fax: 01942 274 282

Financial Report



Financial Report
thus far.

Opening Balance
\$3,384.36

No Transactions

Closing Balance
\$3,384.36

No minutes recorded

Final Thoughts & Reminders

KWI membership fees for the 2012/2013 year are due. The fee for renewal will be \$20.00. Deadline for renewal is October 1st and a 5\$ late fee will be assessed after that date. Please return the renewal form with your fee to Carey Kennedy. The renewal form has been attached to your e-mail. As of right now, Carey had only 2 members turn in money. Get those in quickly!!! Thanks.

Please send all submissions for the newsletter to Romie Chavez.
romualdorchavez@gmail.com

Submissions for the blog go to
Tishbearwmn@aol.com

Tish has set up a new member only Facebook group. Checkout the KS Writers Inc website for details. Tish adds all members who are her Facebook friends. If you would like an invite, please let her know right away. The forum is great for asking your fellow writers for advice and input.

Next meeting:
September 22nd, 2012
@10:00 AM.