



The Next Chapter

June 2020
Volume 16 Issue 6

etwritersguild.org

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Jerry Jenkins says:

“If you fear failure... You should be afraid. Recognizing that you’re right to fear your own inadequacy and the competition should humble you. But don’t let it make you quit. Let that humility motivate you to work harder and do your absolute best work every time. That’s what leads to success.”

The Roving Pen

by Tamara Kratzer

I know you’re writing. Don’t tell me you’re not. Otherwise you’d better confess to your characters and get cracking. I know. Have to get my pencil where my fingers are playing. Or the keys. And don’t forget those characters. Whatever kind of story you write, the people are what matter. Whether your character is riding out on a ranch with weather picking up or they’re a bunch of scary aliens chasing a juicy looking human.

If you’re ready to go for another challenge, since I know some of you are always working on another good book, I have one. After all, if you’re getting a little stuck, might just distract your brain long enough for your characters to sneak around. Ever wonder about animal intelligence? Chimpanzees use tools and are a little like us in a basic way. Birds, dogs, even cats (if you insult their intelligence, you will be sorry), and perhaps more than you know. Elephants are known to remember well and even know the dead, while dolphins may, just like our ape cousins, have a sense of awareness of themselves. Maybe you can write a story centered around a smart animal or even what some species could evolve to. Hmm.

Are You a Truly Promising Writer?

by Anna L. Russell

While searching on Google, I stumbled across “An MFA Admissions Officer on Making Your Writings Stand Out,” located on [forge.medium.com](https://forge.medium.com/an-mfa-admissions-officer-on-making-your-writing-stand-out-2af00d71dd06) [“*eglatarian internet...*”]. <https://forge.medium.com/an-mfa-admissions-officer-on-making-your-writing-stand-out-2af00d71dd06>

From Eileen Pollack’s 26 years of reviewing MFA applications, writes about qualities necessary to enter the graduate program, qualities also helpful for us ETWG members on our journey.

From the article I summarized, adopted, and adapted ideas to improve our craft.

A promising writer ...

* is passionate and disciplined, able to continue writing without an assignment.

Please see *Promising Writer* page 4

Our next speaker is Delia Latham at our general meeting Monday, June 8. She's going to delve into that important point of POV. Come online and enjoy the presentation.

Notes from the President

by Michael Wigington

Hello my dear guild-mates, and well wishes to you all.

I hope this note finds you all in good health and good spirits. Summer is upon us and with all the shutdowns and lock-downs and all that is going on I wanted to thank you for keeping the guild going. Thank you for attending our online general meetings and our Nutz and Boltz online meetings. Which brings me to a related subject dealing with our writing.

The traditional models of doing things are going or have gone the way of the Dodo bird. Sad, but things change. The old guards are gone. No longer is a traditional publishing deal the only way to get your work out there and in many if not most cases it is no longer optimal. It is time to embrace the new paradigm of online interaction. I struggle with this, to be honest. I don't have all the answers but we are in this together. I think the lock-down put this in sharp focus for me, as we held successful General Meetings online. It was easier for the speaker because they didn't have to travel. Yes we had some difficulties. Yes, it is rather isolating to a degree, and I do miss the face to face, I get to leave the house and interact with people, meetings. That said it brings to light that we can reach out and have a bigger audience than in any time in history. Which also holds true for our work.

It's a great time to be a writer ya'll!

Stretch-Your-Mind Questions

by Anna L. Russell

Can you write an essay about your faith system?

How did you feel about being a minority?

Dare you select words then put them on paper for others to understand your darkest moments?

Have you checked your writing to detect if it is an "echo of an echo" of current best-sellers?

What *MUST* you write?

Can you determine what you care about: what perplexes, inspires, enrages you?

Does your writing voice sing of grace and musicality?

Are you as skillful at writing a complete scene, with dialogue, as you are at providing facts and backstory?

Some questions were inspired by Elaine Pollak



Litter

by Lou

Because I'm a stickler about litter, when I noticed up ahead, an object at the side of the road, I pulled over. Before I opened the truck door I thought, "It's a book. If I leave it there, then 1,000 pages will be scattered hither and yon."

My long stride was energized with a strong feeling of disgust. For one, that someone should think so little of a book – after all, every book is valuable. The other reason being that someone should have so little consideration for the landscape, for the environment, for other people. I was getting riled.

I stooped to pick up the paperback, its pages crimped askew at the front as well as the back. Brushing my hand at the dirt, I attempted to return the pages to their normal state. "James Patterson. Never heard of him." The cover picture had some appeal and on the back, the blurb caught my interest.

When I got in house, I got very little done because the book "called" my name. I read while I was eating, in the bathroom, and in bed. Intrigued by the plot and mystery, I read all night.

Several weeks have transpired during which time I have read 43 James Patterson books, all because of litter.

Advertising?



A New Approach to Rejection

by Anna L. Russell

Decades ago the advice given me was that a wall papered with rejection slips indicated the approach of success. How true. Since then I have learned that whether writing or other areas of life, any rejection, rebuff, or elimination produces depression or strength. What follows is a new way to approach r.e.j.e.c.t.i.o.n.

- R Read the story again.
- E Examine the manuscript thoroughly.
- J Jar your brain for improvement.
- E Excellence requires commitment.
- C Call for help.
- T Remember the basic tools.
- I Ignore quit-itis.
- O Open a book and study.
- N Never give up.

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Promising Writer continued from page 1

* has gained the perspective and tenacity to accept constructive criticism – without quitting.

* writes strong fiction without trying to impress.

*develops “a voice that doesn’t sound like anyone else.”

Eileen Pollack’s article stabs my mind with questions.

Questions lead to discovery which is an important factor not to be overlooked. Along those lines, Eileen Pollack asks applicants for the MFA program to write two essays.

One essay “about you as a writer, today.” For the other essay, she wants “about you as a person.”

My challenge to fellow guild members is to write those two essays and discover a new element about yourself. Possibly in the process of composing, you will learn more about your distinctive voice as well as more about what you *need to say*.

Eileen Pollack welcomes questions from her readers: eileenpollack@icloud.com.

TNC Newsletter and ETWG Information

TNC Submission Guidelines and deadlines

All submitted data must be received by the 20th of the month prior to the month in which art/ad/etc. will appear.

Length—up to 500 words (ask if more)

Format—single space, no indent

Fonts—12 pt. Times New Roman

Photos—jpeg with caption instructions

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ETWG



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