



Our Next KWA Event

October 15, 2005

8:30 am—5:30 pm

**Century II Convention Center
Meeting Room 101**

Scene of the Crime Conference

Our Lineup:

FBI—Shawn Stroud, Supervisory Special Agent

Former US Marine Pilot, Expert in the Middle East, Experience with Anti-Terrorism, Undercover and Investigative Work on the Global Scale.

Special Ops—Darrell Haynes, Captain with

WPD. Experience in SWAT, Bomb Squad, Air Patrol and Undercover Narcotics.

Detective—Lt. Ken Landwehr

Lead detective on the BTK Case, has experience in all phases of police investigation and detective work. He'll give us a two-hour presentation on the BTK criminal investigation.

SEATING IS LIMITED

PRE REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED

For more information contact: Gordon at (316) 685-0098 or gordon@gordonkessler.com. Registration forms and flyers available on-line at www.kwawriters.org.

New & Renewing Members

New

Phyllis Rowland

Renewals

Cully Abrell
Jennifer Fry
John Maden
Trix Niernberger
Sherry Phillips
Bonnie Tharp

Mark Your Calendar

Oct. 5 & 19—GK Brainstormers novel-writing critique group, 7:00 p.m. in the "History" section at Borders East. Contact Gordon at gordon@gordonkessler.com or 316-685-0098.

Oct. 5 & Nov. 2—First Saturday Terrorist Women will meet on Wednesday, 1 to 4 p.m. at Watermark Books, 4701 E. Douglas.

Oct. 7 & 21—Working Women Writers, 10 a.m. Watermark Books, 4701 E. Douglas.

Oct. 15—KWA Scene of the Crime Conference, 8:30 am—5:30 pm, Century II, Rm. 101

Oct. 16—Nancy Mehl's book signing, 2 to 4 pm, Watermark Books, 4701 E. Douglas.

Oct. 20—Newsletter deadline for November.

Nov. 2—GK Brainstormers, 7:00 p.m., contact Gordon Kessler for location, gordon@gordonkessler.com or 316-685-0098.

Market Place

Market News

Razor Magazine is ceasing publication of its print publication for many reasons, one of which is that print advertising has been going down while Internet advertising has been on the rise. They will continue the online magazine, according to *Razor* CEO Richard Botto.

(Source: Media Life Magazine, www.medialifemagazine.com/News)

Publish America, LLLP and Publish America, Inc. are being sued by Encyclopaedia Britannica, Inc. for trademark infringement, false designation of origin, and unfair business practices.

Pegasus Books will be launched in the spring of 2006 by Claiborne Hancock, former Avalon Publishing Group senior managing editor. The house will publish "quality commercial fiction, with a special emphasis on crime novels and mysteries" as well as nonfiction.

Harlequin is replacing its old Temptation line with a new line called Modern Xtra-Sensual. The line will focus on stories providing a feel-good experience on relationships for women between the ages of 18 and 35. Word length will be 60,000 words.

Harlequin is introducing another new line, Tender Romance, in September 2006. The length is 50,000-55,000 words, with highly focused stories and limited characters and subplots.

Reflections's Edge is an ezine that publishes short genre fiction of 500-10,000 words for a payment of \$10, plus a possible bonus. They are seeking science fiction, fantasy, erotica, westerns, magical realism, adventure stories, fables and fairy tales. Details at

www.reflectionseidge.com/submit.html.

Contests

ByLine Magazine Contests. For more information on all of their contests, see www.bylinemag.com/contests.asp.

Flash Fiction: Deadline: Oct. 5. Entry Fee: \$5. Prizes: \$50 first, \$30 second, \$15 third. Submission: A short story or vignette under 1,000 words, which nevertheless feels complete. These often depend on atmosphere and technique more than plot.

Autumn Poem: Deadline: Oct. 15. Entry Fee: \$3. Prizes: \$50 first, \$25 second, \$15 third. Submission: Any style or length poem.

Children's Article: Deadline: Oct. 20. Entry Fee: \$5. Prizes: \$40 first, \$25 second, \$15 third. Submission: An article for children of any age, or nonfiction relating to children (parenting, humor, etc.). Includes anything from kids' crafts to how-tos for parents or Sunday school teachers. Length: 200 to 1,800 words.

Inspirational Poem: Deadline: Oct. 25. Entry Fee: \$3. Prizes: \$35 first, \$20 second, \$10 third. Submission: Poem in any style on a spiritual or inspirational theme.

New-Talent Short Story: Deadline: Nov. 5. Entry Fee: \$5. Prizes: \$50 first, \$35 second, \$25 third. Submission: Open to any writer who never has won a cash prize in a ByLine fiction contest. Maximum 5,000 words.

American Accolades TV, Treatments & Shorts

Deadline: Entries accepted from Oct. 8-Dec. 3. Entry Fee: \$40-\$45. Prizes: \$1,000 grand + \$995 course certificate, \$500 first+. Submission: Synopsis and script for one of three categories. Details at [\[www.American Accolades.com\]\(http://www.American Accolades.com\).](http://www.American Acco-</p>
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American Accolades Screenwriting Competition

Deadline: Entries accepted from Oct. 22-Dec. 31. Entry Fee: \$40-\$50. Prizes: \$2,500 cash, \$1295 course certificate; \$500+ first places. Submission: Synopsis and script of one of many genres. Details at <http://www.AmericanAccolades.com>.

Benjamin Saltman Poetry Award

Deadline: Oct. 31. Entry Fee: \$20/entry. Prizes: \$3,000 and publication of collection. Winner will be announced in *Poets & Writers* magazine. Submission: 48-96 pages of poetry. Details at <http://www.redhen.org/awards.asp>.

19th Annual Frederick Morgan Poetry Prize (formerly the Nicholas Roerich Poetry Prize)

Deadline: Oct. 31. Entry Fee: \$25. Prizes: To be announced, plus publication. Submission: At least 48 pages of original poetry. Details at <http://www.storylinepress.com/projects/roerich.htm>.

Reading Writers Contest: Crime Scene

Deadline: Oct. 31. Entry Fee: \$5. Prizes: \$100 grand and 3 months publication on their website. Submission: Original and unpublished story up to 1,000 words. Lead character must work in some capacity of criminal investigation and is summoned to the strangest, scariest crime scene in the history of investigations. Details at <http://www.readingwriters.com/contest.htm>.

Writing Crime Fiction

By Starla Criser

Crime Fiction Genres:

- Caper
- Classic whodunit
- Cozy
- Espionage
- Forensic
- Hard-boiled
- Historical
- Legal/Medical
- Military
- Police procedural
- Political
- Private eye
- Romantic suspense
- Serial killer
- Science Fiction mystery
- Soft-boiled
- Suspense
- Thriller

Some Basic Genre Definitions:

Mystery—Basically this is a novel of revelation, with action more mental than physical. Usually a murder is involved and the protagonist's job is to discover who committed the murder and why.

Caper—A mystery that centers on the commission of some type of crime or scam, usually outrageous and often humorous. (Writers include Georgette Livingston and Elizabeth Peters.)

Classic Whodunit—Generally this describes the traditional or classic mysteries of the 1920's and 1930's. These mysteries contained significant elements of a puzzle. (Writers include Arthur Conan Doyle and Agatha Christie.)

Cozy—The lightest style of mystery, without blood and gore. They almost always involve a "civilized" murder, and the sleuth is usually a reluctant amateur. The protagonist is never the criminal, and the murders generally take place close to home. (Writers include Agatha Christie and Dorothy L. Sayers.)

Espionage—A mystery involving the use of spies to obtain secret information, often about another government or a business competitor.

Forensic—A mystery that involves the use of science or technology in the investigation of a crime.

Hard-boiled—A tough and gritty mystery that incorporates violence and graphic descriptions of crime scenes. The protagonist is usually the detective or the criminal. (Writers include Raymond Chandler, Lawrence Sanders, Michael Connelly, and Robert B. Parker.)

Historical—A mystery that takes place in the past. (Writers include Paul Doherty and Elizabeth Peters.)

Legal/Medical—Mysteries involving lawyers and doctors, usually written by actual lawyers and doctors. (Writers include Lisa Scottoline and William Coughlin.)

Military—A mystery involving the armed forces in some manner.

Police Procedurals—A mystery that gives a step-by-step look at the personnel and methods used in the investigation of a crime. The protagonist is usually a police officer, but sometimes is a private detective. (Writers include: Ed McBain, P.D. James, Joseph Wambaugh, and Tony Hillerman)

Private Eye—These mysteries involve private eyes such as the hard-boiled PIs of the 1930's and 1940's or the more politically correct investigators of today. The protagonists have a strong code of honor. (Writers include Lawrence Sanders and Sue Grafton)

Romantic Suspense—A suspense novel with the addition of a large amount of romance. (Writers include: Mary Higgins Clark and Catherine Coulter)

Soft-boiled—A gentler mystery, but there may be some violence. The description of the violence is never explicit. These mysteries often contain comic moments. (Writers include: Janet Evanovich and Sharyn McCrumb)

Suspense—Loosely defined as a story in which the audience is waiting for something significant to happen. The protagonist's job is to prevent it.

Thriller—Crime fiction with plenty of action, heavy on plot and tension. The protagonist is usually involved in dangerous circumstances. The protagonist is active, a professional.

Mystery - Crime - Thriller

Websites of Interest

Ellery Queen-a website on deduction
<http://www.neptune.spaceports.com/%7Equeen/index.html>

A website that provides a challenge to the reader, who is given a list of suspects, a floor plan, and other pieces to solve a mystery.

Mostly Links Mystery Site

<http://www.mostlylinksmysterysite.com/types.html>

Links to websites dealing with the various types of mysteries: historical, pulp, women, religious, hard-boiled, classic/Golden Era, and Academic.

Mystery Connections

http://emporium.turnpike.net/~mystery/crime_pursuits.html.

Mystery Ink

<http://www.mysteryinkonline.com>
 Crime fiction book reviews, author interviews, reference articles on writing mysteries, and links to author websites.

Mystery Net

<http://www.mysterynet.com>
 Online mysteries, mystery games, mystery books and resources.

Partners & Crime-Mystery Booksellers in Greenwich Village

<http://www.crimepays.com>
 Listing of readings and signings, links to auto websites, a First Editions Catalog of new crime novels, and an online store.

Red Inkworks

http://www.redinkworks.com/mystery_writers.htm
 A resource for links for mystery writers.

Thrilling Detective

<http://www.thrillingdetective.com>
 Short fiction; links to reference books for the P.I. world, periodicals, websites and 'zines, conventions and fan events.

The Mysterious Bookshop

<http://www.mysteriousbookshop.com>
 A specialty store for mystery, crime, suspense, espionage and detective fiction.

The Poisoned Pen

<http://www.poisonedpen.com>
 One of the three largest mystery bookstores in North America. They have a newsletter, book clubs, links to author websites, listings of mystery conferences, links to a large number of mystery related sites, and links to publisher sites.

Helpful Websites

Anatomy of a Murder

<http://library.thinkquest.org/2760/homep.htm?tqskip=1>
 A website that takes you through a complete criminal murder trail, and includes a glossary of terms.

A Prisoner's Dictionary

<http://dictionary.prisonwall.org>
 A website with definitions of words dealing with sex or violence that are part of prison culture.

Case Breakers

<http://www.casebreakers.com>
 Online criminal records and background checks.

Crime and Clues

<http://www.crimeandclues.com>
 A website for the art and science of criminal investigation with information on crime scene investigation, fingerprint evidence, physical evidence, demonstrative evidence, digital evidence, behavioral evidence, death investiga-

tion, and more.

Crime Scene Investigation

<http://www.crime-scene-investigator.net>
 Articles on crime scene response guidelines, evidence collection, a newsletter and more.

Crime Scene Investigations

<http://www.feinc.net/cs-inv-p.htm>
 Links and articles on crime scene investigations, including on how to become a CSI.

Crime Spider

<http://www.crimespider.com>
 A website that searches for the best crime and law enforcement sites for the particular subject you are researching. *Excellent.*

Crime Through Time Museum

<http://www.crimethroughtime.com>
 The only museum of its kind in the world open to the public. The site has information on criminal profiles and photo galleries.

Death and Dementia

<http://www.deathndementia.com>
 Serial killer information and much more.

Federal Bureau of Investigation

<http://www.fbi.gov>
 The FBI's official website with lists of criminal information, laws, news, unsolved cases, crime stats, and more.

Financial Scandals

<http://www.ex.ac.uk/~RDavies/arian/scandals>
 Links to financial and corporate scandals, scandals involving central banks, organized crime and their role in financial scandals, money laundering and more.

Mystery - Crime - Thriller

Firearms Tutorial

<http://www.-medlib.med.utah.edu/WebPath/TUTORIAL/GUNS/GUNINTRO.html>

A website offering a working knowledge of the types of firearms and ammunition used, the injuries that can be produced, and investigative techniques.

Forensic Entomology

http://folk.uio.no/mostarke/forens_ent/forensic_entomology.html

A website devoted to the use of insect knowledge in the investigation of crimes.

Miskatonic University Press

<http://www.miskatonic.org>

A website with a variety of useful information, including a glossary of hardboiled slang.

Mystery and Detective Fiction Sites

<http://umbc7.umbc.edu/~lharris/mystsite.htm>

Links to many kinds of information relating to mysteries and detective fiction.

Mystery Writing Tips

<http://members.tripod.com/~Twyla/index.html>

A short course on mystery writing in an article about the detective, the victim and the villain.

Police Slang and Codes

<http://sinai.critter.net/mutant/dawn/slang.htm>

A listing of slang that might be used by police officers.

The Routine Autopsy

<http://web2.iadfw.net/uthman/Autop.html>

A procedure related in narrative form as a guide for screenwriters and novelists.

True Crime Ink

<http://www.truecrimeink.com/links.htm>

Types of Wiretaps, Bugs and Methods

<http://www.tscm.com/typebug.html>

A great review of the various types of listening devices.

United States Marshals Service

<http://www.usdoj.gov/marshals>

The official website for this service, with duties, fact sheets, history, and more.

Zeno's Forensic Site

<http://forensic.to/forensic.html>

Links to forensic science websites and forensic medicine websites.

Writers Groups

American Crime Writers League

<http://www.acwl.org>

Reviews, interviews, conference information, tour schedules, and more.

Mystery Writers of America

<http://www.mysterywriters.org>

The premier organization for mystery writers, professionals allied to the crime writing field, and aspiring crime writers.

Short Mystery Fiction Society

<http://www.thewindjammer.com/smfs>

A group that actively recognizes writers and readers who promote and support the artform of short mysteries.

Sisters In Crime

<http://www.sistersincrime.org>

The main website for the world-wide organization for women writing mysteries. Contains information about their chapters, the organization, events and conferences, and more.

Markets

Intrigue Press

<http://www.intriguepress.com>

Publishes crime novels and mysteries. Guidelines available online.

The Mysterious Home Page

<http://www.clueclass.com/MystHome/Publishers.html>

Links to E-publishers, publishers, associations, events, and booksellers.

Mystery Scene

<http://www.mysterscenemag.com>

A magazine that has critical overviews, interviews of authors, developments in television and film, reviews, and articles on a variety of topics within the crime and mystery genre. They are a paying market for articles and interviews.

Over My Dead Body

<http://www.overmydeadbody.com>

Mystery magazine with book and movie reviews, author profiles and interviews, fiction, contests and news. Nominal payment for taut fiction of 750-4,000 words.

Pulp and Dagger Fiction

<http://www.pulpanddagger.com>

A webzine for short horror stories with twist endings, short stories and serials from the pulp era. This is not a paying market, but a writing credit.

Strand Magazine

<http://www.strandmag.com>

A magazine for mystery and short story lovers. They will take queries on mysteries, detective stories, tales of terror and supernatural. They prefer 2,000-6,000 word lengths.

The Final Parts: Climax, Resolution, Denouement

By Starla Criser

At this point in the series of articles on creating fiction we have dealt with the basics of coming up with story ideas, creating characters and conflict, the elements of plotting, writing the opening hook, using dialogue and narrative, and using scenes, sequels and sequences. Now we will briefly look at the final parts of your manuscript.

Climax—This is the part of the story where the plot explodes, where dreams are shattered and goals seem unattainable. All the conflicts come together and decisions must be made. Everything is at its peak here: suspense, drama and tension. This is sometimes referred to as the “black moment” or “turning point.”

Resolution—The part of the story where the conflict is settled, and usually some type of change occurs. Sometimes the resolution is a part of the climax. The resolution must provide a satisfactory conclusion for the reader and come about logically from the events of the story.

Denouement—The conclusion of the story where all the loose ends are tied up, the action ends, and any outcomes of the climax are explained.

Types of Bad/Non-satisfying Endings:

- **Message**—The writer tells the reader that something happened.
- **Too Tidy Resolutions**—The writer uses artificial and forced endings to conveniently solve conflicts, usually through an outside person or pure luck.
- **Trick**—The writer solves the conflicts by suddenly revealing something that the reader hadn't learned earlier in the story.
- **Foggy**—The writer ends the story by basically avoiding dealing with the conflicts.
- **Confusion**—The writer ends the story by raising questions instead of solving the conflicts or answering earlier questions.
- **Illogical Changes**—The writer had the characters change in a way that isn't logical based on the story's revelations and plot development.

Book Review

By Michelle D. Smith

Learning to be a writer can be a rocky path filled with fits and starts. You wonder if you're doing it right, if you should take a class in this or that. One way to both address those fears and learn more about the craft of writing is through books by writers about being a writer.

One of the great ones is by Stephen King. *On Writing* is part autobiography and part instruction, woven together by a great storyteller in a style that seems personal and involved. Mr. King comes clean in this book about his childhood and the poverty before success hit him between the eyes. He openly and honestly talks about his addictions and the recovery from them as well as the accident that nearly killed him.

He also spends much of the book talking to the writer. He explains what you need—the toolbox and its contents—and what he recommends. “If you want to be a writer, you must do two things above all others: read a lot and write a lot. There's no way around these two things that I'm aware of, no shortcut.” He calls this the Prime Rule, but he has many other suggestions, recommendations, and ideas. He believes that you should have a daily goal for your writing (his is 2,000 words) and he has suggestions for what to do with your novel once you've finished writing it.

Mr. King details his process without making it dry, impenetrable or unrealistic. His story is inspiring, not because of the millions of copies sold, but because of his approach. He started out working forty hour weeks in a dangerous laundry and wrote every day while balancing a desk on his knees in a trailer house. It didn't get much better over the years until *Carrie* was purchased. He's learned the harsh lessons along the way and he's willing to share them with you.

If you've always wanted to take a creative writing class from a master, pick up *On Writing*.

On Writing written by Stephen King is available in either hardback or paperback from Scribner.
ISBN: 0684853523

President's Letter

By Suzann Robinson

Those who attended the September planning retreat came up with many exciting ideas for KWA. The creative juices were flowing, and the enthusiasm could be felt throughout the room. And the delicious food has to get some of the credit for the success of the day.

Here are just a few of the ideas that were discussed at the retreat. We will have a volunteer coordinator who puts information about our members on a database so we have a better understanding of what each member is interested in. We plan to have more committees to help with various duties. Our hope is to keep the membership informed about what other members are writing so that communication is possible between those writing in the same genre.

We also made plans for our 2006 programs. Our January meeting will include Phyllis Rowland, who will give a presentation on memoir writing. In February we will learn about writing romance. In March Emily Bonavia will speak on screen writing. In April we hope to have a program on writing horror. In May Mike Klaassen, author of *Brute*, will tell us about writing for young adults. If you have ideas of other programs you'd like to see, let us know.

See you all at "Scene of the Crime" October 15.

Conferences

Nebraska Romance Writer's 3rd Annual Fall Writing Retreat

Dates: Oct. 21-22

Location: Lincoln, Nebraska

Cost: \$45 for both sessions

Program: Debra Dixon's "Book in a Day"

Details: www.nebraskaromancewriters.com

Clive Cussler Convention 2005

Dates: Oct. 7-9

Location: Denver, Colorado

Cost: \$125

Program: Book signings, tour of Clive Cussler's car museum, various speakers, and guest speaker, Clive Cussler

Member News

Starla Criser, aka Kay Starr, has sold chapters 6 and 7 of her e-book novel *If You Loved Me* to Wicked Velvet.

Nancy Mehl will be signing copies of her new supernatural mystery novel, *Malevolence*, on Sunday, October 16th at Watermark Books. The signing will be from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

KWA Website

Nancy Mehl's website www.nancymehl.com has been added as a link to the KWA website.

**If your website is not currently linked to the KWA website and you would like to do so, contact Angela Criser (our web master) at angela@3foldcomm.com. She would be glad to add your link.

KWA Events Ahead

November 19 Pre-meeting workshop on "Grabbers" presented by Hazel Hart and Gordon Kessler; main program on critiquing fiction and poetry, also presented by Hazel and Gordon. Watermark Books.

December 10 Annual KWA Awards Banquet: dinner with KWA members and friends, followed by the presentation of awards to winners of the 2005 Kansas Writers Association Prose & Poetry Competition. Kababji's.

January 21 Election of 2006 KWA officers. Pre-meeting program as yet undecided. Program on memoir writing presented by Phyllis Rowland. *Critique session following the main program for anyone interested in taking part. Beginning with the January meeting, the schedule will move up so that we can include the critique sessions. Watch for more on this in the next newsletter.*

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Newsletter

Please send all newsletter submissions of articles, member news, or encouraging quotes by the 25th of each month prior to publication to starlakaye@earthlink.net or by snail mail to Starla Criser, 9415 E. Harry, Ste. 603, Wichita, KS 67207. All email attachments should have "KWA" in the subject line and can be submitted in Word, WordPerfect, Works, or rtf format.

Join KWA For Only \$25.00

This will give you a one-year membership, our monthly newsletter, and a membership card which entitles you to discounts to our various programs and seminars. Send your check to KWA, P.O. Box 2236, Wichita, KS 67201

Visit our Web Site at: www.kwawriters.org

Our Mission Statement

To inform, support, encourage, and promote the writer.

KANSAS WRITERS ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 2236
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ADDRESS CORRECTION
REQUESTED

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