

The Just Write Life

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Links to Websites

Links to Websites

by Ann Gordon

Click these links to watch three short videos about adding tension and suspense to your story, screenplay, or novel:

6 Tips for Writing Thriller Novels:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rPygXp6dO-4>

Suspense versus Tension:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZEPgQY28Tf0>

Mastering Suspense in Storywriting:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Da330g9waFU>

Hope you enjoy these,

Ann

“Fill your paper with the breathings of your heart.”

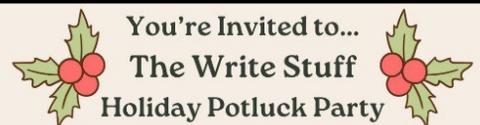
– William Wordsworth

Upcoming Events

Holiday Potluck Party

The Just Write Chapter members are invited to join The Write Stuff Chapter for a holiday potluck social.

Bring a snack or treat to share, and a wrapped book for our white elephant style gift exchange. (It can be new or used, just please not falling apart. And it can be a book you wrote or a favorite you've read, though we ask that it be PG-13 or less).



Friday December 20th

7pm to 9pm

**Sorenson Room, Orem Library
58 N State St. Orem**



Upcoming Events (continued)



Pre-Quills Conference
Saturday, March 29, 2025

The Quills Conference 2025 – “Creating Hope”
August 7-10, 2025



Member Spotlights

Keegan McClure

Keegan is originally from Dallas, Texas but has been living in Salt Lake City for three years now. He works on the business side for a large publisher of children's books and hopes to be published in the next few years.

Keegan reads mostly horror but enjoys anything that has a good story! He writes horror stories that focus on exposing people in the lowest moments of their lives to supernatural forces that make everything just so much worse.

Keegan is also looking for beta reads for his manuscript. It's a horror novel with cosmic horror elements!



Sharman Ober-Reynolds

Sharman was born in LA and completed a master's in fine arts at Arizona State University. She worked as a FNP in autism research and is primary author of *The FRIEND Program for Creating Supportive Peer Networks for Students with Social Challenges, including Autism*. In 2023, Sharman was the first-place recipient of the Olive Woolley Bert Awards and has published creative non-fiction in *bioStories* and *Adelaide Literary Magazine*. Sharman now lives and writes in an old house in Salt Lake City with her family and Cadoodle.

Beta Readers Needed

Keegan McClure is looking for beta readers for his horror novel with cosmic horror elements. Contact Keegan at keegan.mcclure0317@gmail.com.

Who's Penned What

Linda Allsion publications: Short CNF story *The Honor Gardens* in *The Milk House*, poem *After A Fire* in *Pile Press*, and two photographs *Into the Pink* and *Periwinkle* in *Pile Press*.

David Armstrong republished a revision of his second novel *The Porch* in both eBook and Paperback formats with a new cover on Amazon and Barnes & Noble. The audio book edition is also available.

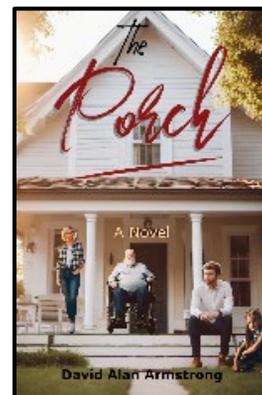
[Purchase on Amazon.](#)

[Google Play](#)

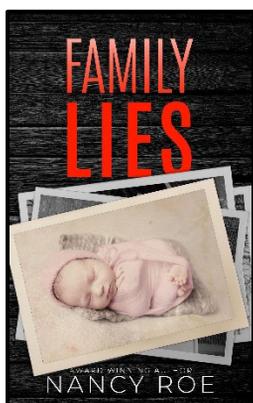
[Walmart/Kobo](#)

Genre: Fiction - Romance - Clean and Wholesome

Synopsis: An autistic man named Edward is forced into an unusual relationship with crotchety old Mr. Johnson. With time and perseverance, Mr. Johnson mellows, and Edward opens up. When Mr. Johnson's daughter enters the scene, Edward falls in love, although he has no words for this feeling. Edward's mother, with whom he lives, has a stroke that rocks Edward's world and sets him on a course to a new life.



David also published a new website for his books. <https://davidalanarmstrong.com/>. He would love for our members to review the site and give him feedback.



Nancy Roe published her sixth mystery novel, *Family Lies*.

A baby. A mother. A sister.

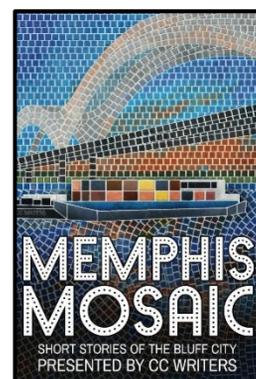
Twenty-six-year-old Clementine Lancaster has lived in New York City for eight years, working as a ghostwriter for a New York Times bestselling author. But when her boss dies, and she returns home to Piper Flats, Iowa, she's forced to navigate through a series of unexpected encounters and revelations.

Clementine uncovers family secrets, hidden rooms, and confidentiality agreements, leading to unforeseen discoveries and encounters with law enforcement. Mystery, intrigue, personal growth, and unexpected twists showcase Clementine's journey of self-discovery and resilience.

[Purchase on Amazon.](#)

Nancy Roe also contributed to the *Memphis Mosaic* anthology, with a short story titled *Ernest T. Bottombrite*. Nancy lived in Memphis for 28 years before moving to Heber City in 2020. She is still a member of the Collierville Christian Writers group.

Memphis is a city steeped in history, culture, and vibrant storytelling. Memphis Mosaic celebrates the essence of the Bluff City through this collection of evocative and creative tales. The original short stories in this anthology were written by members of Collierville Christian Writers, based in Collierville, Tennessee. Inspired by the rich heritage of West Tennessee, this diverse collection reflects the imagination and opinion of each writer. Whether you're a lifelong Memphian or simply a visitor seeking to understand the city's soul, we hope this anthology offers a literary journey that will leave you inspired, intrigued, and entertained.



[Purchase on Amazon.](#)

Member Article

Story Fabric

by Nicole Klunder

Write what you know. I've heard that many times throughout my writing journey. Write from experiences. It's raw. It's more meaningful. It creates all the feels and you can imagine it in your story world. It replays in your mind whether you're writing it or reading it, reliving it all again. It's true. It's honest. It's deep. An author once said, go out there and live.



Live your life, meet people, connect, and work hard at what you do best. You can find reward and fulfillment. Get out there and go on that hike, eat the cookie, try new recipes, make changes for yourself whether it be new food, hobbies, or lifestyle, and above all that, choose to live your life and create that positivity instead of waiting for it. You are in charge of everything in your life.

Living in the moment is something I learned a couple of years ago. Yes, I changed my career almost two years ago to the daymaker service industry, so it's natural to make a customer's day and enjoy the connections and what I do every day. I am quite literally thrown in the moment with every customer. I can't explain how rewarding it truly is. Enough to say that I wish I had started this years ago, but I don't essentially think of it that way. I recognize my career journey as stepping stones to where I am today even if it meant I wasn't at a job for too long.

I always grow, learn, and move forward no matter what.

Additionally, I can be my best version of myself with all the pieces I took along the way and I can now say I am surrounded by a positive learning environment. Let's face it, if we stop learning it would be boring and we wouldn't get excited anymore. It would not motivate us.

The same goes for learning in the writing world! When I write, I take bits and pieces from everything I touch or connect to or with.

This, my friends, is what's called **STORY FABRIC!**

Did you have a conversation with someone with an opposite personality as you, maybe that person is an overthinker and analyzes everything. They question too much. How does this make you feel? Create a character with these characteristics.

What about a person who was a complete copycat of your personality? Someone you can truly connect with like no one else you have before. You didn't even know this type of person existed in the world. You both share the same interests and creative minds, have a well-rounded personality and a sense of humor, and are an intellectual thinker type. This can be quite common among a writer's group, being writers and artist types. How did this make you feel?

Now, what if these two people got together in your story world? Does the power of two similar character personalities connect on such a deep intimate level feel like fireworks or is it a complete disaster? Use it as characters in your story!

What inspires you? What drives you to write? How do you come up with the character traits and plot ideas? What about your settings?

Write what you love and it will come alive and sound authentic to your readers providing that emotional connection, especially if you have lived in said setting you are writing about, or at least visited and spent time there.

Absorb it. Live in it. Take it in fully. Let it saturate your soul. Entirely. And Above all...Write for YOU!

Website Author Bios

Just Write Members: Please check out your website bio page and let Ann or Nancy know if you would like any changes to your writing bio. <http://justwritechapter.org/MemberBios.html>

If your bio isn't on the website, and you want it to be included, send Nancy or Ann a picture of yourself and an author bio no greater than 125 words. Questions you could answer include:

- When did you realize you wanted to write? At what time in your life, etc.
- What genres do you like to read?
- What are you currently working on?
- Do you have a writing schedule? If so, what's that like?
- Links to social media.

Critique Sessions and Submission Guidelines

Critique sessions run twice a month. Invitation emails are usually sent the first and sixteenth of each month; these invitations include an RSVP deadline. Once the deadline has passed, the spreadsheet with current group information is sent. Each session is generally divided into two or three groups with three to six participants each, depending on how many members participate.

Submissions are then emailed to each member of the participant's group and returned by the end-of-session deadline, usually the fifteenth or the last day of the month. If you want to read a submission from someone in a different group in addition to those in your own group, you may request their work, but please do not expect them to read yours in return.

Fiction and non-fiction chapters, short stories, articles, and poems are all welcome in our critique sessions...query letters too.

Submission Guidelines

- 3,200 words or less (not including any synopses at the beginning)
- Include a synopsis if there are chapters/ sections prior to your current submission
- 12-point or larger serif font (such as Times New Roman or Cambria)
- Double or 1.5 spaced lines
- Word document format (.doc, .docx)
- Include your name or initials in the filename
- Submit within three days of receiving the group spreadsheet

Critiquing Guidelines

- Please make at least six suggestions or comments in your reviews (AI grammar programs should not be used)
- Be honest, kind, and encouraging
- Corrections and comments are made using the "Track Changes" and "New Comment" features under the "Review" tab in Word
- Include a note at the end of the document or in the email with an overall review or comment
- Ideally, return your reviews by the last day of the session

Chapter Officers

- Ann Gordon, President
(ann@gordoncomputer.com)
- Tim Keller, PR and Voting Proxy
- Critique Session Facilitator, Michelle Backman
(mlbackman67@gmail.com)
- Website: Ann Gordon
- Nancy Roe, Newsletter Editor
(Newsletter.JustWriteChapter@gmail.com)

"Believe in yourself! Have faith in your abilities! Without a humble but reasonable confidence in your own powers, you cannot be successful or happy."

– Norman Vincent Peale