



Mystery Press

Mystery Writers Ink

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Message from the President

by Suzanne Stengl

Welcome to the inaugural issue of Mystery Press. And welcome to a brand new writers group.

On November 8, 2001, 11 writers met at Brenda Collins' house to discuss the possibility of forming a mystery writers group. Since that time, the group has expanded to 16 members and there have been 6 more planning meetings. By-laws were written, goals were set, Public Relations ideas were developed and ideas for a Program were brainstormed. On May 16, 2002, Mystery Writers Ink Society was incorporated.

In June, we found our first newsletter editor and the news crew was formed. A library was started with books on mystery writing as well as books applicable to any kind of writing. Our Program Chair, together with our Vice President continued working on the Fall Program.

On June 10, 2002, Mystery Writers Ink became a member of the Old Y Centre for Community Organizations. We will meet at the Old Y on the second Thursday of the month beginning in September, with our first general meeting held on September 12, 2002. Our second meeting, on October 10, will be at a different location--we're going to a gun range so be sure to check the Program Schedule on the back page for details.

Our goal is to support writers of mystery fiction. Over the next few months, we want to bring in representatives of different professions that might pop up in a mystery novel: a bodyguard, a private investigator, and a police officer. We also hope to have talks on the mechanics of writing a mystery and on the different mystery subgenres. As we grow, we hope to provide information on marketing and publishing.

And we want to do a lot of networking with other budding mystery writers. Welcome to Mystery Writers Ink!

Bouquets to Janice and Janet

by Sherile Reilly, Librarian

When we were setting up MWI in the fall of 2001 and the winter of 2002, the group had a librarian but there were no books to catalogue. If we were going to have any books, they would have to be donated. Janet Hunter came to our rescue by donating Writing Mysteries and Starting From Scratch.

In the spring we received fifteen brand new, hard covered books from Janice Wagner. I felt like a kid on Christmas morning as I opened the bags and read the titles. Janice had given MWI everything from books on investigating crimes to elements of fiction (please see the library list for all the titles). Thank you Janet and Janice, for your generous contributions.

Book Review

by Sherile Reilly

Writing Mysteries: A handbook by the Mystery Writers of America.

Edited by Sue Grafton

In this book there are 27 chapters, all by different mystery writers. It's a walk-through of the mystery writing process-- from the first flash of inspiration to the finished manuscript-- and of your search for an editor or agent.

The book is full of words of wisdom such as:

Write what you feel.

Write down your wisps of ideas.

Write down a key phrase or long outline. Commit it to paper.

Have an official end to the workday.

Never polish the first chapter until the last chapter is written.

Rarely is anything of value written. It is rewritten.

Everything a character does or says must have a point and must take the story somewhere. Otherwise cut it. Give your characters a purpose-- something they must strive for in every scene.

Make the settings more real by: Setting your book in a place that lends itself to atmosphere.

Exploit the locale to the fullest. Go beyond ordinary description. Give up feelings, sounds, tastes and smells.

Use the weather

Some questions you might ask yourself:

If your protagonist is an amateur sleuth, why is he/she trying to solve the mystery?

Why aren't the cops called?

How will you create a vivid villain?

How do you create suspense?

This book is a road map that points you to solutions.

Mystery Writers Ink: Library list

by S. Reilly

In order to borrow a book, please phone Sherile Reilly at (403) 286-6266 and leave a message stating the name of the book you would like to borrow and your name and telephone number. I will phone you back and confirm that I've received your message, then I'll bring the book to the next MWI monthly meeting.

Bickham, Jack. Scene & Structure: Elements of Fiction Writing

Brown, Rita Mae. Starting From Scratch: A Different Kind of Writers' Manual



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Card, Orson Scott. Characters & Viewpoint: Elements of Fiction Writing

Dibell, Ansen. Plot: Elements of Fiction Writing

Fallis, Greg. Just the Facts, Ma'am: A writer's guide to investigators and investigation techniques

Faron, Fay. Rip-Off: A writer's guide to crimes of deception

Grafton, Sue (ed). Writing Mysteries: A Handbook by the Mystery Writers of America

Herbert, Rosemary (ed). The Oxford Companion to Crime & Mystery Writing

King, Stephen. On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft

Kress, Nancy. Beginnings, Middles & Ends: Elements of Fiction Writing

Kress, Nancy. Dynamic Characters: How to create personalities that keep readers captivated

Lamott, Anne. Bird by Bird: Some Instructions on Writing and Life

Lucke, Margaret. Writing Mysteries

Mactire, Sean. Malicious Intent: a writer's guide to how criminals think

Page, David. Body Trauma: a writer's guide to wounds and injuries

Wilson, Keith. Cause of Death: a writer's guide to death, murder and forensic medicine

Wingate, Anne. Scene of the Crime: A writer's guide to crime-scene investigations

Books are signed out for a period of one month between September and June.

Thank You

Special thanks to Sharon Wildwind who donated \$150 to the start-up costs of Mystery Writers Ink. Kudos to Sharon for getting us off to a good start!

Got questions?



Drop us a line at mysterywritersink@hotmail.com

Fall Program Schedule

Thursday September 12, 2002

Old Y Centre
7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Inaugural Meeting of Mystery Writers Ink
Topic: Spy Store Gadget Demo
Presenter: Mr. Andrew Robinson, Manager of Spy City

- . Who are the customers for SPY devices - average adult, professional investigators, police?
- . Why do these people use the devices?
- . How do you know, or not, if someone intends to use the devices for illegal purposes?
- . Where have these devices been used successfully? Or unsuccessfully?

There will be time for questions and answers following the presentation, and some of the devices will be exhibited.

Thursday October 10, 2002

Off-site location for this meeting see map in this newsletter*
Steve Johnson Range Clubhouse: 6710 - 11 St NE
7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Topic: Bang For Your Buck: Everything you ever wanted to know about handguns.

One of our members has a relative who has been a target shooter for many years. He will bring with him a small collection of handguns of the types found in most murder-mysteries. While there will be no actual shooting, for reasons of safety, you will have a chance to handle and "dry fire" various styles of handguns to get, as they say a "feel" for them.

Thursday November 14, 2002

Old Y Centre
7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Topic: Anatomy of a Mystery
Presenters: Brenda Collins and Janice Wagner

Thursday December 12, 2002

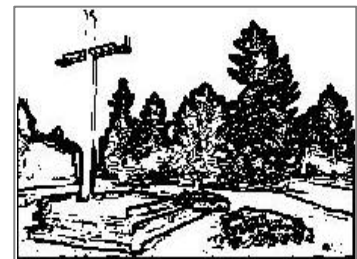
Old Y Centre
7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
New member orientation for the first half of the meeting,
Followed by: Storyboarding for Mystery Writers

Clues

submitted by Susan Mills

Can you guess this week's mystery? Email your answers to mysterywritersink@hotmail.com and tune in next issue to find out if you make it as a "Mystery Sleuth".

Question: What is Calgary's "First" Cemetery?



Hint: It's not in its original location.