



Mystery Press

Mystery Writers Ink

Volume No. 2 Issue No. 1

September 2003

Contents

President's Message	1
<i>Suzanne Stengl</i>	
Book Talk	1
<i>Sherile Reilly</i>	
Ink Brochure	1
MWI Library	2
<i>Sherile Reilly</i>	
Grammar Grappler	2
<i>Penny Grey</i>	
Book Review	3
<i>Susan Spooner</i>	
Riddle Me This	2
<i>Suzanne Stengler</i>	
Program Schedule	4

President's Message

by Suzanne Stengl

I'm in Jasper National Park right now, sending this "Message" to our new editor, Penny Grey, via the internet cafe in Jasper townsite.

Rolf and I are staying at some out-of-the-way hostels and escaping from the city noise. But these days, no one is ever far from the Net. Rumour has

it that even our one "non-Net" member is close to joining the World Wide Web.

We're doing some hiking, he's doing some biking, and I'm getting some writing done on my Alpha Smart.

If all goes well, you should be reading this first issue of Volume 2 by the first week of September. Our program committee has been working hard over the summer to put together a schedule that will educate and entertain you.

A membership drive started in August and we hope to see some new faces at our first meeting on September 11. Come out and meet the new people, touch base with old friends, and if you've had a lazy hazy summer, kick start your writing.

Several of our members have recently been asked to submit partials. Talk to them at the meeting. Learn from their successes. Come and network and learn with us. See you on the 11th.

Welcome to the second year of Mystery Writers Ink.

Book Talk

by S. Reilly

The newest addition to our library is *The Writers Brainstorming Kit*, by Pam McCutcheon and Michael Waite. This consists of one book and a deck of cards. Each of the 50 cards has a single word on it. From the authors: "These words are intended to trigger associations in your mind to add depth and interest to your story for a specific element of character or plot. Just shuffle the cards and let them help you create something fresh and different."

Ink Brochure

Ink's brand new brochure is included with your September issue of Mystery Press.

Pass it around. Let your writer friends know that we accept new memberships in September and October. And be sure to renew *your* membership!

"Get your facts first, then you can distort them as you please."

Mark Twain



Mystery Press

Mystery Writers Ink

Volume No. 2 Issue No. 1

September 2003

MWI Library

by S. Reilly

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

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

MWI's Current Book List:

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

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

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 Instruction 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

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

Riddle Me This!

by Suzanne Stengl

When posed this riddle, 80% of kindergarten kids figured out the answer, compared to 17% of Stanford University seniors:

What is greater than God,
More evil than the devil,
The poor have it,
The rich need it,
And if you eat it, you'll die?

The answer will be provided in the December newsletter!

Grammar Grappler

by Penny Grey

Strictly speaking, "that" is used with restrictive clauses and "which" with non-restrictive clauses.

The newspapers that are on the coffee table should be saved.

The newspapers, which are on the coffee table, should be saved.



Mystery Press

Mystery Writers Ink

Volume No. 2 Issue No. 1

September 2003

Book Review

by Susan Spooner

Rip Off: A writer's guide to crimes of deception, by Fay Faron. *Writer's Digest Books* 1998.

I've always loved books with a map on the cover and a quotation at the start of each chapter. There's no map on the cover of this one, but we learn a little about the author from a chapter heading quotation:

"It's always better to have something happen to you, than nothing happen to you." Attributed to 'something I no longer say.'

Fifteen years running a detective agency has given Fay Faron a wealth of information on every trick in the book. Some of the cons she describes are wonderfully simple.

For example, make sure there is \$300 in your account at 4 p.m. Friday (better yet, someone else's account, to which you have access), write cheques for up to \$299 per transaction all weekend, and empty the account Monday morning.

Faron has advice on choosing a "pigeon." Some cons work best on naïve teenagers (card tricks, for example), some on the elderly (sweetheart scams), and some on the lonely (religious scams). The book outlines how to find a mark; for example, if looking for an elderly mark, find spouses of the recently deceased in the obituaries or look for old-fashioned names in the telephone book.

Foran touches on why cons work, the body language of con artists, and slang words associated with cons. She also lists agencies who deal with different types of cons in the U.S.: the FBI with cult kidnapping, the postal inspector with mail-order fraud, the medical board with psychic healers.

Foran's easy style makes this a quick, readable book. "A smart perp makes more money flapping his lips than by hitting somebody over the head with a baseball bat."

I was taught at an early age that fairground games were not designed to be won, at least not by the little kid spending her last sixpence. This book tells us how the

odds are against us, something we in Stampede city should know.

When fairs roamed England in my youth, I was always in love with the romance of the Romany. It was with sadness I read the chapter on Gypsies, Tramps and Travelers. Gyped is the verb.

Most of us have had to fund-raise for swimming or hockey, or to buy luxuries such as textbooks for our kids' schools. We could take a lesson from the IRA or those thought responsible for 9/11. Don't waste time with bottle drives or in smoky bingo halls. Raise money selling counterfeit Rolex, Nike, Disney, or other big-brand-name goods. It's not bad enough that perps steal trademarks, the goods are not subject to FDA scrutiny and are often faulty. Canadian perps get a special mention in Foran's book: they are apparently responsible for \$50M worth of a total of \$40B worth of telemarketing fraud.

Worth a read, Foran's book has heartbreaking stories, amusing asides, and an intriguing bibliography.



Mystery Press

Mystery Writers Ink

Volume No. 2 Issue No. 1

September 2003

Mystery Writers Ink Society

223 - 12th Avenue SW
Calgary, Alberta T2R 0G9
Canada

Mission Statement

Mystery Writers Ink shall support writers of mystery fiction by providing networking opportunities and by educating and informing writers about writing techniques, publishing, and marketing.

Newsletter Submissions

Mystery Press is published quarterly, in September, December, March, and June. Original material only please. Articles may not be reprinted without permission of the authors. MWI reserves the right to edit submissions.

The deadline for the Dec. newsletter is Nov. 20, 2003.

Please send submissions by e-mail to Penny Grey at pegrey@greygroup.ca.

Program Schedule

Thursday, Sept. 11, 2003

Old Y Centre
7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Welcome Back!
Topic: Goal Setting
Presenter: Louise Behiel

Thursday, Oct. 9, 2003

Old Y Centre
7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Topic: TBA

Thursday, Nov. 6, 2003 (FIRST Thurs. of Nov.)

Old Y Centre
7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Book sale
Topic: Plotting
Presenter: Linda Ford (tent.)

Thursday, Dec. 11, 2003

Old Y Centre
7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
New Member Orientation

Lug a Mug



We don't have a storage area at our meeting place so please bring your own coffee cup.

Styrofoam cups are available to the forgetful!

Enjoy a bottomless cup of coffee for only 25 cents!

Mystery Writers Ink Society

2003-2004 Board of Directors:

President	Suzanne Stengl
Vice President	Cathy Welburn
Secretary	Trish Gartshore
Treasurer	Donna Wickens
Membership	Janet Hunter
Facilities Mgmt	Anne Jayne
Library	Sherile Reilly
Program	Donna Levia
Public Relations	Donna Tunney

Newsletter:

Editor	Penny Grey
Layout/Design	Penny Grey
Distribution	Sharon Wildwind
Database Mgr	Brenda Collins

Memberships:

Memberships are accepted between Sept 1 and Oct 31 of each year.

Published authors and past members may join at any time.

Full membership:

\$35, includes newsletter

Associate membership:

\$45, includes newsletter

Newsletter only: \$10

Got Questions?

Drop us a line:



mysterywritersink@hotmail.com