

**IFWA MEETING**  
**Thursday, December 3, 2015, 7:00 PM**  
**Sentry Box**  
**MINUTES**

**Information Items: n/a**

**New Members: Catherine Saykaly-Stevens, Jeanette Dover (writes Middle-Grade fantasy)**

| <b>Time</b> | <b>Topic</b>   | <b>Person</b>  |
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| 7:00 PM     | <p><b><u>Crits for December</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Crit 1: Ed Wilson: "The Cursing" (Ch 19 novel excerpt) SF<br/>Crit by Brent Nichols / Peter Shokeir</li> <li>• Crit 2: Flash Fiction / Dark Fantasy – "Good Little Girls" by Dani Atkinson<br/>Crit by Daniel Wright / Chris Jessop</li> </ul>  | <p>Shannon<br/>Brent / Peter</p> <p>Daniel / Chris</p> |
|             | <p><b><u>Crits for January, 2016</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Crit 1: Lynn - Chapter 1 – Fantasy Novel<br/>Crit by Colin and Dani Atkinson</li> <li>• Crit 2: Dave Worsick – short story – near future SF<br/>Crit by Swati Chavda and Jeff Campbell</li> </ul>  | Shannon  |
| 7:50 PM     | <p><b><u>Skills Session</u></b><br/> Historical License – Jodi Mclsaac</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research into what historical writers do with this issue.</li> <li>• Use when dealing with real places, people, history, etc. or even emerging technology and near future – applies to spec. fic.</li> <li>• Two camps:</li> <li>• 1. Authors have responsibility to stick to agreed-upon facts and not spread incorrect version – if take poetic license, it is excuse for sloppy or no research. Criticisms will ensue and affect sales – e.g. DaVinci Code</li> <li>• 2. Most authors – novelists are not history teachers – we're not HIS-torians, we're STORY-ans. SJ Paris says it is not our job to educate people. No responsibility to the reader for historical accuracy – responsibility to story and characters.</li> <li>• Reasons why to agree:</li> <li>• (a) History is hardly agreed upon and filled with prejudice and inaccuracy – historians bring their own perspectives.</li> <li>• So, begs question of what actually happened – we can imagine a different kind of history. Biases worked into history</li> <li>• (b) Most interesting parts of history can be found in gaps of history. People aren't even honest with</li> </ul> | Jodi Mclsaac   |

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|         | <p>themselves let alone their journals. Lots of grey spaces. We have to make a lot of it up. This is genius of historical fiction.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Similarly, not a lot written about women in history. Must read between the lines.</li> <li>• Cautionary Tale – if you change history, you should have a good reason. Not be lazy or no good reason. Have to do work.</li> <li>• Can lose readers if give radically different perspective of historical person instead of agreed-upon perspective.</li> <li>• The more readers know about historical time period, the more accurate you have to be.</li> <li>• Historical Notes at back of books: Put these in your book – say what you changed and why. If up front with readers, people who may know, will be more forgiving and everyone loves to know what <i>really</i> happened.</li> <li>• The more accurate you are and the more accurate details you use, the more the reader will trust you.</li> <li>• Prefer secondary sources if time crunch. Primary sources better and if have language, even better. Get a general overview and then concentrate on story.</li> <li>• Be bold and brazen. Ask lots of people to help you with research and critiquing.</li> </ul> |         |
| 8:30 PM | <p><b><u>Call for Agenda Items</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• n/a</li> </ul>   | Michael |
| 8:35 PM | <p><b><u>Brag</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ed Wilson committed to NaNoWriMo and got 296 hand-written pages</li> <li>• Lesley Sackett-Winfield also committed to NaNoWriMo and DID make it</li> <li>• Randy McCharles wrote first draft of new novel in Mexico and received an e-mail from publisher – sold over 1300 copies of newest book – “Much Ado About Macbeth”</li> <li>• Celeste Peters - Also committed to NaNoWriMo and did it and</li> <li>• Erika Holt – sold two short stories – Ghost in the Cogs and Laksa Media (Strangers Among Us)</li> <li>• Jodi – film rights to first series – nudge</li> <li>• Chris Chupik – blog</li> <li>• Swati – Ignite is done (co-written with husband) – 75% of writing in standing desk – climbed Mt. Everest on treadmill</li> <li>• Michael – wrote something for Burn – but science wrong and is changing it</li> <li>• Calvin – 4<sup>th</sup> “A” in a row for Creative Writing Class</li> </ul>  | Michael |
| 8:40 PM | <p><b><u>Business</u></b></p>  | Michael |

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|         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>n/a</li> </ul>  |         |
| 8:55 PM | <p><b>Announcements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>A Taste of Local Authors</b> - Dec 10, 2015 at Owl's Nest Books. IFWits such as Randy McCharles and Robert J. Sawyer will be there.</li> <li><b>Writers in the House</b> - (Randy McCharles) - Booked another for January 16-17, 2016 – at - Boomtown Pub Hours - 11am - Midnight</li> <li><b>Alberta Theatre Projects – Legend Has It</b> – playing until January 31 – says something about writing and storytelling</li> <li><b>Bundoran Press</b> has extended their deadline for novel submissions. The new deadline is now January 31, 2016. Guidelines here: <a href="http://www.bundoranpress.com/pages/submissions/">http://www.bundoranpress.com/pages/submissions/</a></li> <li><b>Bundoran Press</b> is also launching another Indiegogo campaign to help increase the amount we can pay writers. Anthologies are expensive – more so than novels – and to pay decent rates we need to raise extra funds. Our anthologies have been nominated for and/or won awards, largely because of the quality of writers we've been able to attract.</li> </ul> <p>Take a look at our campaign. If the idea appeals to you, every donation makes a difference and gives you access to some nice perks as well. If you can't or don't want to contribute, no worries; I don't give every time I'm asked either. But if you like the idea, sharing it on social media helps as well.</p> <p><a href="https://www.indiegogo.com/projects/lazarus-risen/x/2324873#/">https://www.indiegogo.com/projects/lazarus-risen/x/2324873#/</a></p> | Michael |