

IFWA MEETING
Thursday, January 7, 2016, 7:00 PM
Sentry Box
MINUTES

Information Items:

New Members: Richard Caruana,

Time	Topic	Person
7:00 PM	<p><u>Crits for January</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crit 1: Lynn - Chapter 1 – Fantasy Novel Crit by Colin and Dani Atkinson • Crit 2: Dave Worsick – short story – near future SF Crit by Swati Chavda and Jeff Campbell 	<p>Shannon Colin / Dani</p> <p>Swati / Jeff</p>
	<p><u>Crits for February, 2016</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crit 1: Adam (novelette – dieselpunk) - Crit by Chris Carolan, Ed W • Crit 2: Swati (Historical Fantasy) Crit by Steve Swanson, Daniel 	<p>Shannon</p>
8:00 PM	<p><u>Skills Session</u></p> <p>How to Write a Good Short Story</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing is an art, not a science. • We have a whole pile of experts around the table. There are lots of ways of doing the same thing. What works for some, does not work for others. • And many of these points apply to the novel as well. • Short stories look at one incident; the theme explores only one idea. In other words: FOCUS. • In novels, multiple themes can be explored. • At opening – anything is possible. With every paragraph, you narrow it down and the end you get to an “a-ha” moment. This is the ONLY thing that can happen. Begin with the END in mind. • Opening sentence should be directly related to your final sentence and should be related to the climax and theme. Very compact structure. • In theory, short stories shouldn't have middles at all. Set up key pieces, then have climax and ending. May be some genres where middle is important (ie mysteries). But when writing the short story, try and be compact. • As far as endings – there are usually two obvious endings. It is wonderful if you can come up with that THIRD creative ending that is NOT the obvious ending. It also has to have all of its elements throughout the story. • If have two obvious endings, way to maintain tension. Keep doubt until that last line or paragraph. 	<p>Susan Forest</p>

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	<p>Really good twists should double your audience – read it once and then read it again after knowing the twist – it is a different story.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When you are starting story, you are setting up an implicit contract – a certain type of story. If setting up mystery and no body, then you are breaking contract. Surprise is a balance between surprising reader and genre tropes. • If you are writing literary genre – sometimes you don't need a defined ending. More forgiveness for ending that resonates and makes you think further without necessarily answering question. • Daniel Abraham gives sense what short story is: • Here is one way to write short story • A 5000 word short story mystery might have ten 500 word scenes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sc 1 – sets up characters and problem • Sc 2 – sets up scene 3 • Sc 3 – clue • Sc 5 – sets up scene 6 • Sc 6 – second clue • Sc 9 – Climax • Sc 10 – Denouement • Poetry – makes you focus – makes you think about what you are saying. • Use it for literary genre • Songs are like short stories because have story arc in them. 	
8:30 PM	<p><u>Call for Agenda Items</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • n/a 	Renee
8:35 PM	<p><u>Braggs</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ron Friedman – another honourable mention at Writer's of the Future • Sandy Fitzpatrick – wonderful crit on sci-fi crime thriller from Swati • Richard Pearman – new cute cat • Steve Swanson – 20K shy of finishing novel • Randy McCharles - Book Bundle has sold 3500 copies – Tyche Books bundle • Adam – published in anthology supporting SPCA – and started online free serial – Wizard Killer – following has really built up. Will bring out collection called “Season One” • Justin Acton – helped talk company to sponsor arts – free admission to Glenbow first Thursday of month • Ed Wilson – 377 pages since Nov 1 – hand script • Rick Overwater – half way through mentorship – sent first three chapters of Bundoran – Hayden – • Christa Vorra - Finished first novel in September 67K • Chris Chupik – got first hate-mail 	Renee

Time	Topic	Person
8:40 PM	<p>Discuss / Decide</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IFWA Workshop at WWC – We need to find out if one of WWC Guests of Honour is doing a Clarion-style workshop. If not, IFWA may want to invite a workshop leader – Adrian Kerr – just left Penguin to start her own editorial business. • Susan Forest – send a card to Mike – his mother passed away – no vote needed – large card for next meeting • Renee – Joshua Bilnes' blog – Jaberwocky Literary Agency – opening submissions from now until Valentines Day – he is Brandon Sanderson / Tanya Huff editor 	Renee Ron Friedman
8:55 PM	<p>Announcements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bundoran Press Announcements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Novel Submissions – Bundoran has extended their deadline for novel submissions. The new deadline is now January 31, 2016. Guidelines here: http://www.bundoranpress.com/pages/submissions/ • Lazarus Risen Anthology – The deadline for short story submissions is February 29, 2016. See guidelines above. • The next Enigma Front anthology, Burnt, is now open for submissions. Submissions will be accepted until February 1, 2016. Tagline – Now, everything burns. If get stories within 15 days before can have yey or nay and submit other stories – looking for 60K words – 2-4K words per story. IFWAantho@gmail.com • Writers in the House – hosted by Randy McCharles will be held on January 16 and 17, 2016 at the Boomtown Pub (Private Room) located at 135 Southland Dr SW. Join local writers for a weekend of writing. Drop by any time from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. on Saturday, Jan 16 or 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. on Sunday, Jan 17. • Aurora Awards: 2016 Nominations began on January 1st, 2016 and will continue until March 19, 2016. This year, IFWA participation is important because the award ceremony will be held at WWC. Last year, for every person in Alberta who voted, 6 people in Ontario voted. We need to participate so we can get our voices heard. Help your fellow writers. 	Renee