

IFWA MEETING
Thursday, August 4, 2016, 7:00 PM
Sentry Box
MINUTES

Information Items:

New Members: n/a

Time	Topic	Person
7:00 PM	<p><u>Crits for August</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crit 1: Phillip – prologue for novel – fantasy (Greco roman) Crit by Chris Jessop, Chris Carolan • Crit 2: Justin – space police procedural Crit by Colin, Steve Swanson 	<p>Shannon Chris Jessop / Chris Carolan</p> <p>Colin / Steve S.</p>
	<p><u>Crits for September, 2016</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crit 1: June Carr – novel excerpt (SF & F blend) Crit by Shannon and Brent • Crit 2: Chris Jessop – fantasy short story Crit by Phillip and Jeff Campbell 	Shannon
8:00 PM	<p><u>Skills Session</u></p> <p>Jeff Campbell - Short Stories vs. Novels. What should I write?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A professional writer is someone who practices their trade for money. <p>SHORT STORY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short stories don't make a lot of money. • Primary reason for writing a short story isn't there – there are exceptions, but generally, not a monetary pursuit • Secondary Reasons – advertisement – add to your resume – lots of reasons to increase profile – short story sale adds to that – it is something that, now that we are in e-book era – shows you can be edited and can sell a story. Increases prestige – finally, things to add to your website – awards, etc. • Finally, networking – get to know editors and publishers. • Artistic goal when you do short story, same as a novel. • Secondary artistic reasons – no better way to warehouse idea than to write short story – later, you can look at it and ask yourself what attracted you to it. Then after period of reflection – do that and maybe develop it again. Experimental aspect to short stories. Play around with form. If don't experiment with writing, you won't find out where 	Jeff Campbell

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	<p>your limits are.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn to write a novel with short story – hate this because different disciplines, but Ray Bradbury said it all the time. <p>DIFFERENCES BETWEEN SHORT STORY AND NOVEL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Length – novels are base unit of literature. Cannot make a living with short stories, but can with novels. • Some genres, SF and Horror, birthed in Shorts. Others like Fantasy and Romance, more novel based. • Each story has a natural length. Secret is finding it. For example Lord of the Rings – is a trilogy and that is its natural length. What you leave out of a story is just as important as what you do (The Midichlorian Principle). • Why a difference in word counts: no info dumps in short stories. Do you have enough to make plot and theme work. Theme – theme is the part of your story that when you say it aloud, sounds stupid. If you can identify the theme of the story you are writing (this is hard), re-writing is much easier and cutting of what is there a lot easier. • Setting – must be relevant – don't go overboard just because you are doing a novel – that is padding. • Early drafts – have a lot more characters – lots get dropped and merged in re-writes. • Number one reason why people have trouble keeping short stories short, is POV characters. Every time you add a POV character, you add a lot. Novels – standard to have multiple POV characters. Short story – usually only one or two. Examine your POV character and after done, look at story to see who can be POV character. Protagonist does not have to be POV character. Sometimes handy to have POV character who is not protagonist to tag along and you can play tricks on, etc. • If looking at what stays and what goes – theme is what determines this. • Theme is a pretty nebulous thing – cannot have too many themes in novel – but short story is a cut and thrust with only one theme. • If clear focus – early SF was laser focussed. In and out stories - eg Arthur C. Clarke – characters not well developed. Not emotional. • It is hard to publish a short story. None of your writing will be wasted. If been trying to sell a short story, don't delete it. Put it in a special folder and come back to it later after period of reflection. As time goes on, you get better and have different perspective. Always something that attracted you to the story – identify the nugget and run with it. 	

Time	Topic	Person
8:30 PM	<p><u>Call for Agenda Items</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mailbox – PO Box for IFWA • Steve Swanson – idea for Blurbs – bring your blurb and • Scrivener Workshop – Committee – Renee, Calvin, Phillip, Krista, Richard 	Michael
8:35 PM	<p><u>Brag</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enigma Front: Burnt – LOTS of IFWits – Justin Acton (ed) – Launch is Saturday at 2:00 at WWC – under Analemma Books. • Brent sold story to OnSpec – cover design business – sold 5 covers in series, Stars Like Cold Fire book came out • Kevin Weir - Started releasing comedy podcast – The Third Space Podcast.com • Justin – Vereida picked up story • Ron Freidman sold story to NeoOpsis and got a Writers of the Future Honorable Mention (again) • Sandy Fitzpatrick – placed a poem and short story with Polar Borealis • Gary – his third novel out as e-book 	Michael
8:40 PM	<p><u>Discuss / Decide</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mailing Lists (Mail Chimp) – Do we want to have IFWA Mailbox (PO Box) – cannot use residential – Canadian spam law – need an actual address so you can ask to take off list – Mail Chimp requires a physical mailing address. Cost of a PO Box – fuzzy question – Canada Post has them sometimes. Price varies depending on where you are. Maybe ask Sentry Box? WWC uses. We should ask. Val will find out. Ask about a nominal fee. Calvin will look into Royal Oak. 	Michael
8:55 PM	<p><u>Announcements</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When Words Collide – Volunteers – If you wish to volunteer for When Words Collide, here is the site to do so: http://www.whenwordscollide.org/volunteer.php • Write Off – Writers in the House – Delta Calgary South – Fireside Room – last weekend in September (24-25) – Fireside Room – cost \$0.00 – Social Writing – food from Boomtown Pub • Memberships due after September • IFWA Table – still has a few spots left to fill and we have an art table. 	Michael