

**IFWA MEETING**  
**Thursday, January 3, 2019, 7:00 PM**  
**Sentry Box**  
**MINUTES**

**Information Items:**

**New Members:** Rachel - writes fantasy and paranormal romance

Time	Topic	Person
7:00 PM	<p><b><u>Crits for December</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Crit 1: Kevin Weir – Paranormal Thriller – Family of Monster Hunters gathered for funeral of mother Crit by Keith, Chris Carolan and Rex Lenicek</li> </ul>	Shannon Keith, Chris Carolan and Rex Lenicek
	<p><b><u>Crits for February, 2019</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Crit 1: Eli - short horror story Crit by Dan &amp; Kevin</li> <li>• Crit 2: Marc - First chapter of sequel to epic science fantasy Crit by Eli &amp; Rick</li> </ul>	Shannon
7:45 PM	<p><b><u>Skills Session</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Katie Harse – First Person Narration</li> <li>• Round-table Discussion</li> <li>• Appeal of Writing First Person</li> <li>• Novel - limitations - stuck in one person's head.</li> <li>• Different style - you are expecting a lot more from the reader - lots of bias.</li> <li>• Popular in YA - because kids become someone new</li> <li>• Key difference - between 1st person and 3rd person - first person covers reactions better and biased. Third person is not as biased.</li> <li>• Need to distinguish between first person past and first person present tense</li> <li>• May work best if very character driven</li> <li>• Need to know WHY you are doing it and doing it WELL</li> <li>• Why do you use First Person?</li> <li>• Spec fic is a mainstream fiction of an alternate reality (ie flying cars)</li> <li>• How do you get your characters to think about certain things - especially when that character would not normally think certain things? Challenging. How do you get a Protagonist's name on the page? How do you get a description of the character?</li> <li>• Don't use a mirror. Try and put description in organically. Name of character can be put in dialogue</li> <li>• Don't have to describe character. That way, they can project themselves into their book. If part of</li> </ul>	Katie Harse

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	<p>description is not relevant to the story, then don't include it</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If appearance is important, look at reactions of other people</li> <li>• Do it as close as possible to front of book. Don't put in description 2/3 way through book</li> <li>• Name of First Person Narrator is inevitably "I"</li> <li>• Sometimes a story will speak to you and First Person might work</li> <li>• If experiment, might get something different</li> <li>• When you have change or conflict, is when you can put some of those relevant details</li> <li>• Thought and voice and language can be complex - becomes voice and language problem. It is still a long time to stay in one voice</li> </ul>	
8:30 PM	<b><u>Call for Agenda Items</u></b>	Michael
8:35 PM	<p><b><u>Brag</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Susan – received Bursts of Fire ARC - teaching at Alexandra Writer's Centre - spec fic - Judge for Sunburst</li> <li>• Keith - story in Ellery Queen</li> <li>• Rick Overwater - Have royalty payment for robot story and good rejection</li> <li>• Marc - second part of duology catching Hell has been released.</li> <li>• Chris - crime fiction story - got copy from Coffinhop</li> <li>• Shannon - By the Light of Camelot - reviewed by Prairie Books Now - good writeup</li> <li>• Calvin - invited to pitch for RPG company</li> </ul>	Michael
8:40 PM	<p><b><u>Discuss / Decide</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>WWC</b> – Science Fiction / Fantasy Programming – When Words Collide – Brainstorming with Elizabeth Grotkowski <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Theme - humour - ideas - we could do more with Horror (humour), Cyberpunk, Urban paranormal, etc.</li> <li>• ie Ports of Call - different worlds</li> <li>• Send stuff to Liz through email, FB, etc.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Susan - Book Launches - anyone planning to launch a book next fall - Chris (Enigma Front), Ron, Cassandra (indie)</li> <li>• Ron - panels for Comic Expo - discussion on how to become a writer – wants panelist volunteers (got quite a few)</li> <li>• Ed - needs Alpha Readers - contact him ASAP</li> <li>• JP Cooper - Funding through Alberta Arts - should we have a writer in residence? – Tabled for NEXT</li> </ul>	Michael

Time	Topic	Person
	MEETING <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ENIGMA FRONT -</li> </ul>	
8:55 PM	<b>Announcements</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Writers in the House</b> – hosted by Randy McCharles – will be held on Feb 23 – Feb 24, 2019 – Calgary Delta South – 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, Feb. 23 or 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. on Sunday, Feb 24.</li> <li>• <b>Enigma Front: The Stories We Hide</b> – Reminder – submissions are now open and close on January 31, 2019. See attached submission guidelines for more details.</li> </ul>	Michael

**Next Meeting:** February 7, 2019

## THE STORIES WE HIDE; Enigma Front 5

Lives are made up of stories, but not all stories are ones we want to have told. For whatever reason, in whatever way, for ill or for good, some stories are buried. Truths are hidden, things go unsaid, and secrets are kept... or not, as the case may be!

As usual for Enigma Front, the theme is meant to be a very loose framework. We'll challenge the writers to approach this theme in their own way. Ideas may include: How does a story become a secret? To what lengths will someone go to keep their secret? What happens when those secrets are uncovered?

Some examples of hidden stories might be:

A classified or suppressed scientific study or redacted government file. A family secret unspoken for generations. A spellbook hidden deep inside a dangerous dungeon. A lost film or TV episode. A secret identity.

Consider these real-life "hidden story" stories:

Three Identical Strangers, Letter From Mansanjia, Making a Murderer

The anthology is open to all current members of IFWA in good standing.

Stories can be any speculative genre; SciFi (hard or soft), all varieties of fantasy, any of the \_\_\_\_punk genres, horror, etc. We're aiming for a YA to Adult readership, so stories with excessive gore and explicit sex will not be a good fit.

Maximum length for stories is 6000 words.

We'll consider a small number of reprints (ideally less than 10% of the anthology contents) but we would rather publish new works from IFWA writers. As in the past, IFWITs can submit two pieces for consideration with responses being Hold, Revision Request, or Not for Us.

Hold: We reserve the right to accept, but this is not an acceptance. Decision reserved until all submissions have been reviewed at the end of the submission period.

Revision Request: We will give feedback to allow the author to rework the story with the objective of becoming a Hold.

Not for Us: The story doesn't work for us.

**SUBMISSION PERIOD:** December 1st to January 31st. For submissions received before January 15th we will do our best to reply within two weeks (this is not a guarantee) with final responses being sent by mid-February. Please submit your MS in .doc, .docx, or .rtf in standard short story format:

<https://www.shunn.net/format/story.html>

SUBMIT TO: [ExitZeroSF@gmail.com](mailto:ExitZeroSF@gmail.com) with the header "SUBMISSION: Title by Author Name"

**PAYMENT:** We will be running an Indiegogo campaign to raise funds for this project. Payment to the authors will be dependent on the success of the campaign, but we are hoping to pay each author \$40 to \$50 plus one print copy of the book upon publication.

First-publication rights are exclusive to the anthology for 3 months from date of publication, non-exclusive to the anthology ongoing afterwards.

We're looking for 18 to 21 stories, adding up to a total word count between 60,000 – 90,000 words. If we can't meet these requirements, the project will not go forward. Our goal is to have the book ready in time for When Words Collide 2019.