

Plotting Success

At the moment our website address is:

<http://thequillguild1.wixsite.com/sfwriters>

February 7th, 2017

General Meeting

Selby Library Auditorium

1331 First St., Sarasota

6 pm

February 7th, 2017



Author and publisher Wendy Dingwall will speak to the Sarasota Fiction Writers on Feb. 7 at 6 p.m. at Selby Library. She will present “Don’t Wing It! Build Strong Scenes! Learn the Elements, and Then Some, Needed to Propel Your Story Forward.”

Dingwall is the author of the award-winning Yvonne Suarez Travel Mysteries. Her third novel in the series, “Toxic Cruise,” was released in October 2016.

She is also the president and publisher of Canterbury House Publishing, an independent, traditional publishing house that features authors whose stories are set primarily in the Southeastern United States.

Dingwall is a member of Sisters in Crime, Mystery Writers of America, Independent Book Publishers Association, Florida Writers Association and Florida Authors and Publishers. She currently serves as president of Florida Gulf Coast Sisters in Crime.

Sarasota Fiction Writers meetings are free and open to the public. For more information about Sarasota Fiction Writers, please visit thequillguild1.wixsite.com/sfwriters. For more information about Wendy Dingwall, please visit www.wendydingwall.com.

Sarasota Fiction Writers Critique Meeting

6:00 pm, Wednesday February 15th, 2017

Books-a-Million, Gulf Gate Mall

Bring 5 pages of work to read,

At least ten copies, double-spaced, 12 font.

Attention ALL MEMBERS

October 1st is the club's New Fiscal year. Please mail in your dues:

Overdue or New Members: Please mail dues to:

Sarasota Fiction Writers

Bob Spitzer

2450 Harbourside Drive, Apt 213

Longboat Key, FL 34228

Current SFW Officers:

President: Jerry Keane — destiny716@comcast.net

Co-Vice Presidents: Fred Weiss — fweiss@binghamton.edu

Critique Monitor: Pat Gray – patrickgray1@msn.com

Co-Secretary Publicity: Grier Ferguson

Co-Secretary Newsletter: Dona Lee Gould – DGould497@aol.com

Treasurer: Bob Spitzer mbspitzer@gmail.com

Blogmaster Extraordinaire: Natalie Brown—ngbrown.us@gmail.com

Members please feel free to send a one- or two-sentence synopsis of your published works and a link to sales on Amazon or Barnes and Noble to Natalie. She will grab the cover art to post on the Member Titles pages on our new website. Another place to market – for free.

At the moment our website address is: <http://thequillguild1.wixsite.com/sfwriters>

We are working to regain the original url, but Go Daddy is not being co-operative

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"Graham had hoped to have written his memoirs by now, but nothing has happened to him yet."

BITS & PIECES

This is our announcement section of happenings and events in the lives of our members. If you have any info you want to share from the sale of a short story, publication of your book, a book signing, entering a contest, especially winning, or if you have a birth, wedding, or other event in your family you just want to share with your fellow members....

Please email me at Dgould497@aol.com and I will include your announcement in the letters. If you know of any upcoming contests, workshops, or conferences you plan to attend, or just want to inform the rest of us about one you like, please let me know. I would also like to know about other local writing groups. Sharing information helps everyone.

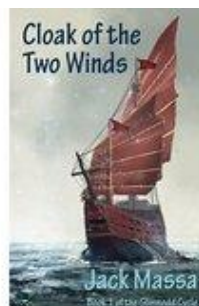
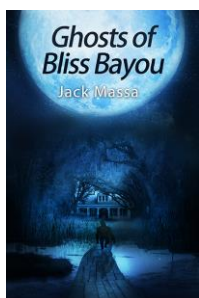
Please consider purchasing books written by your fellow members and support their efforts. Soon it will be your turn! Also, if the books are available on Amazon, write a four or five star review. (If you feel a member's book is lower than a four of five star, please just pass on the review. Amazon considers a three-star and lower a bad review.)

Good Reviews help sell books on Amazon.

New Member Jack Massa writes fantasy and science fiction. His new book *Ghosts of Bliss Bayou*, was released November 14, description can be found here:

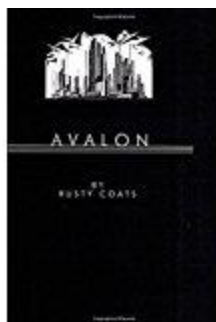
<http://triskelionbooks.com/ghosts-of-bliss-bayou/>

His epic fantasy novel, *Cloak of the Two Winds*, is now available in print and e-Book from Amazon. - <http://tinyurl.com/h2wyb6e>. His website is <http://triskelionbooks.com/>



Past Speaker Helaine Mario announced that her novel, *The Lost Concerto*, won first place at Florida Writers Associations Royal Palm Literary awards in the suspense category.

Member Rusty Coats announced his second novel, “Avalon,” was just published.



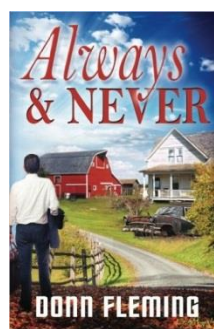
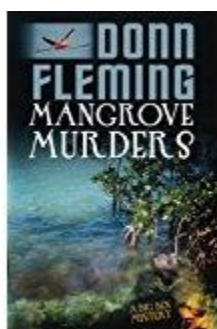
Featured as the first [Big Idea of 2017](#) on best-selling science fiction author John Scalzi’s website was a great nod.

Avalon was supposed to be the new City of Light: a clean, beautiful place to live, work and play - virtually. There was a cost, however, to this utopia. Programmers Disease. As the epidemic swept through the nation, society rushed in to shut it down. But, cyberspace, like nature, abhors a vacuum and every vice imaginable rushed in to fill the the elaborate Art Deco void. Avalon, a once shining city of virtual opportunity became the nightmare of sex, violence and gambling, and despite the Great Prohibition, everyone flocked there for a fix. Avalon. It is what you think.

Available: [Amazon](#), [Barnes & Noble](#), [Ink n Beans Press](#)
[Excerpt here](#).

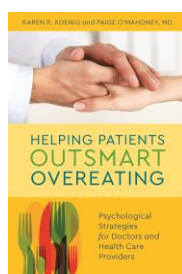
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Member Donn Fleming announced his new book launch. *Always & Never* joins *Sarasota Sunrise* and *Mangrove Murders* rounding out the Big Ben Mystery Series Trilogy. Available on Amazon/Kindle or personalized copies through www.donnfleming.com.

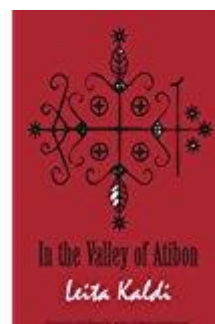
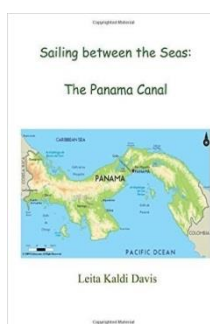
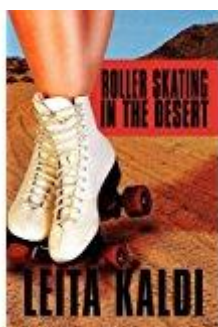


Member Karen Koenig LCSW, Med, an eating disorder therapist, has written a new book that's coming out in January – “Helping Patients Outsmart Overeating: Psychological Strategies for Doctors and Health Care Providers.” The book is published by Rowman & Littlefield and is available for pre-order from Amazon and Barnes & Noble.

“Helping Patients Outsmart Overeating,” which Koenig co-authored with a physician, offers a new paradigm for doctors and health care providers who treat patients with eating and weight concerns. It describes how both providers and patients are frustrated by weight-loss plans and programs that fail long-term and presents a psychology-based explanation for why diets fail and how they, in fact, may adversely impact patients’ mental and physical health. It also includes strategies for doctors, health care providers and higher weight patients to help patients reach their health

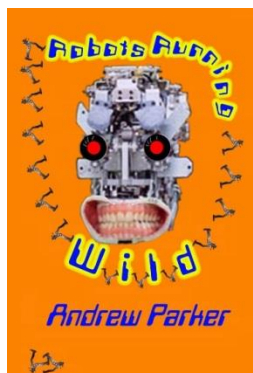


New Member Leita Kaldi Davis worked for the United Nations and UNESCO, for Tufts University Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy and Harvard University. She worked with Roma (Gypsies) for fifteen years, became a Peace Corps Volunteer in Senegal at the age of 55, then went to work for the Albert Schweitzer Hospital in Haiti for five years. She retired in Florida in 2002, and wrote a memoir of Senegal, Roller Skating in the Desert, and of Haiti, In the Valley of Atibon, as well as several travel memoirs available on amazon.com or email her at lkaldi@hotmail.com



Member Andrew Parker, winner of the 2016 Sarasota Fiction Contest, announces he has two books available in paperback or as a download from Amazon.com.

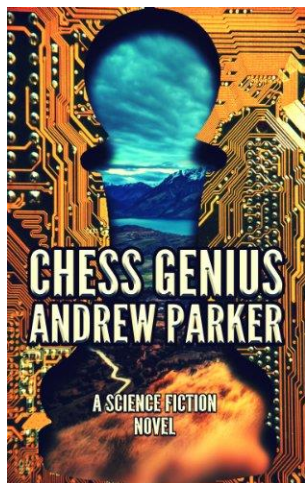
https://www.amazon.com/dp/B01NBNUS9T/ref=sr_1_3?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1482695902&sr=1-3&keywords=Andrew+Parker



Two twelve-year-olds, Mary and Tommy, are laid up after a car crash. Their Uncle Frank, a retired military roboticist, gives them two Army robots. With voice commands and joysticks, the kids send the machines to school in their place. After classes, the duo trot the behemoths downtown to chase purse-snatchers and stop bank robberies. They're crime fighters.

The fun ends when Boris Babamski, evil mastermind, hacks into robots to launch Operation Destroy Technology. Suicide loony-bot bombers wreak havoc. When Uncle Frank's robots are corrupted, Mary and Tommy infiltrate Boris's fortress and struggle to reprogram the bots before the mechanized demons reverse the course of evolution. If the couple fail, the world will regress to prehistoric times.

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https://www.amazon.com/Chess-Genius-Andrew-Parker-ebook/dp/B00D9JM9V2/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1482695995&sr=1-1&keywords=Andrew+Parker+Chess+Genius

Twelve-year-old Frankie suffers from progeria, a rare aging disease, and has only a year left to live. But he has a gift. He can see chess moves farther ahead than anyone who ever played the game.

He could be the world chess champion. But competing would kill him. So he celebrates his final moments of life. He plays with friends, parties with Grandpa in his mansion, and even flirts with gorgeous genetically engineered rat girls.

Life is good!

Till he goes to the hospital to breathe his last. Dr. Barrigan, his mentor, struggles to develop a stem cell treatment to cure him. If the world-renowned geneticist succeeds, Frankie might even be able to face a chess computer called Bette Davis Eyes and vie for the world chess title.

Chess Genius is a sci-fi fantasy that explores growing up and dying at the same time.

Member Elizabeth Sims announced *Crimes in a Second Language*, her new standalone novel, is now available on Amazon.

“*Crimes* is a departure from series work for me,” she says. “This is a standalone novel about the relationship between two very different women in contemporary Los Angeles. The story was inspired by my late, great aunt and her relationship with a Mexican-American housecleaner.”



Is smart and dead better than dumb and safe?

Elnice Coker and her husband Arthur, retired schoolteachers, move from Indiana to the Hollywood Hills in a last-ditch attempt at novelty and happiness. California alone can't do the trick, but when Elnice befriends her housecleaner, Solita, her life opens up to friendship and intrigue. Elnice teaches Solita English although Solita's common-law husband, Luis, is against it. The women build a secret, tentative friendship.

Meanwhile, wannabe novelist Jason M is busy writing faulty information into tech manuals for airplane-making machines at a factory in the Valley. One of a swarm of corporate saboteurs scattered around Los Angeles, he's bossed by a nameless, exacting mentor. But when he begins to have ethical doubts, he discovers it's harder to get out than it was to get in.

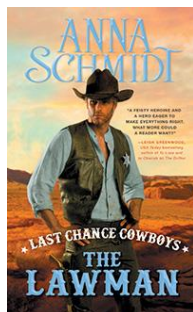
The lure of easy money casts its spell over everybody, and as Elnice and Solita grow closer, they encounter treachery and danger where they least expect it. The saboteurs intertwine, innocent lives hang in the balance, and as Elnice risks everything to dig deeper, she learns the value of rejecting safety—and living life to the max.

More news from Elizabeth Sims:

“My blog, Zestful Writing <http://esimsauthor.blogspot.com/>, continues to cook along. We cover the writer's life, writing techniques, language use and abuse, and whatever else seems worthy to discuss. I continue writing articles for Writer's Digest magazine and their various special editions; currently you'll find my pieces in the January, February, and March/April issues. (After that, a bit of a break...but I've sent along some new ideas to the mag, so we'll see what's next.)

I contributed to the recently published the new edition of the *Complete Handbook of Novel Writing*, from Writer's Digest Books. Also, I'm developing ideas for online teaching, so stay tuned for that. Am also working on *Best Boy*, the fourth in the Rita Farmer mystery series.”

Member Jo Schmidt (w/a ANNA SCHMIDT) a Wisconsin Seasonal member currently has novellas in two anthologies and the second in her Western series: Last Chance Cowboys--will be out in December. Romantic Times has already praised book 2—THE LAWMAN—as follows: Readers who yearn for a solid Western romance are sure to find Schmidt's second Last Chance Cowboy installment as the perfect read. The realistic second-chance at love story — with its intelligent characters, sensuality and suspense elements — engages readers. 4 Stars.



Anna has three times been a finalist for the coveted RITA award for romance fiction and has twice before been recognized by Romantic Times magazine with their Reviewer's Choice Award. Check out her Amazon Author's Page for more on our award winning author.

https://www.amazon.com/Anna-Schmidt/e/B001HOMA1A/ref=sr_ntt_srch_lnk_2?qid=1477949179&sr=1-2

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**Member Bohdan O. Szuprowicz** prepared a special selection for Valentine gifts delivery to your loved ones with mobile devices who are keen on writing their memoirs

Here are some ideas what to put inside.

[http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb\\_sb\\_noss\\_1?url=node%3D154606011&field-keywords=Szuprowicz](http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb_sb_noss_1?url=node%3D154606011&field-keywords=Szuprowicz)



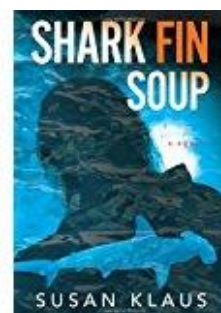
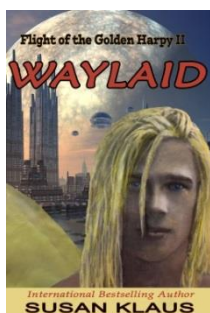
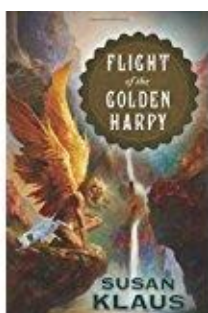
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Member Susan Klaus is the guest speaker for the Friends of Island Library, 5701 Marina Dr., Holmes Beach on Feb. 18, 1-3 pm.

She is also a monitor at SleuthFest, Boca Raton, FL. on Feb. 23 sponsored by the Mystery Writers of America.

Over the last few months her books have been ranked in the top 100 on Amazon in numerous categories. She ranked #82 in the Amazon's Top 100 Best Selling Authors for Mystery/Romance. On Dec. 18 her award-winning thriller, *Secretariat Reborn* was on an Amazon Top 100 Best Seller list for thrillers/suspense in three categories, #10 in paid e-books, #11 in paperback books, and #12 in Kindle Unlimited. The novel stayed in the top 100 for five days and was also #863 in paperback for all genres.

Last month her fantasies were on an Amazon Top 100 Best Seller list. *Fight of the Golden Harpy* was #6 in books, and *Flight of the Golden Harpy II, Waylaid* was #75 in free e-books.



Previous Member Brenda Seabrook announced her short story "Snow Devils" is in the anthology *WINDWARD, BEST NEW ENGLAND CRIME STORIES OF 2016* published by Level Best Books.



Last month her newest book launched: *SCONES AND BONES ON BAKER STREET: SHERLOCK'S (maybe) DOG AND THE DIRT DILEMMA*, by Belanger Books. Belanger exclusively publishes

Sherlock Holmes books, scholarly books pertaining to the Holmes books, and books by the Baker Street Irregulars, which included President Franklin Roosevelt and Sir Winston Churchill.

"This is a fun mystery for young readers with an adorable dog who has a real nose for excitement and clues. The numerous illustrations liven up the pages, while sprinkles of historical information make it a real treat. Teamed up with Sherlock Holmes, Digby is a dog criminals and evil doers need to watch out for." - Tonja Drecker - prized children's book reviewer at Bookworm for Kids

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**Member John Pearce** announced the publication of his new novel, *Last Stop: Paris*, the sequel to *Treasure of Saint-Lazare*.

Here's the link to the Amazon page (it's KDP Select), where readers can find the Kindle, paperback and audio editions: <http://www.amazon.com/dp/B017OTZN4W>.

Author page is <http://amazon.com/author/johnpearce>.

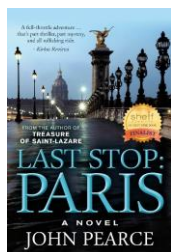
He will be attending a Book signing and Political event Saturday November 5, 2016 from noon until 3 pm in the Village of the Arts at 1004 & 1010 Tenth Avenue West, Bradenton, FL 34205. Stop in and buy a signed copy of either or both books.

*Last Stop* was picked as a 2015 finalist in the best indie book of the year competition sponsored by Shelf Unbound Magazine and Bowker.

The interview is on his blog, here: <http://wp.me/P2PhOq-OY>

### **John Pearce**

Author of [Last Stop: Paris](#)  
and [Treasure of Saint-Lazare](#)



And....

### **\*\*\* Member Dona Lee is back at work:**

**Village Voices opens February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017 for the Artwalk at 6pm.** Our Author of the evening is Ty Jodouin, a science fiction/fantasy writer whose novels explore the Bermuda Triangle and aliens in the galaxy. Located at 1010 10 Avenue West, Bradenton 34205 The Village of the Arts provides live music, wine and hors d'oeuvres as you stroll the streets visiting any of the 45 galleries and six eateries. Lots of fun and opportunities to discover new sensations.

Dona and Al are partners in a video production company. DNA Productions, LLC produces **book trailers**, music videos, workshops, small business commercials, and even a political parody serial for Youtube. We filmed a Flash Mob Dance up in Madeira Beach. If you need a video for your business, your book, your website, or any reason, commercial or personal, contact Dona for more information. (No weddings, the insurance is too pricey) We have registered commercial drones and can provide 4K and HD aerial videos when desired. You can see DNA Videos on Youtube at Al Musitano or Dona's Redneck White House Channel <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCphTzpNdHdWoe44C50yPDyw>

Her literary business, Plotting Success (named after our newsletter), is the canopy for many of the numerous projects she manages. Her **Author Services company offers editing, manuscript evaluations, and coaching on all aspects of writing.** We have helped numerous writers self-publish their books at a fraction of the cost charged by subsidy publishers AND

you retain ALL your rights and royalties. Plotting Success also offers publishing services; formatting your manuscript for both e-book and tree book (paper) publication, including custom-created covers, and help with the upload to Create Space. After you are published, I offer coaching to help you focus your marketing plan directly to your readers. **All at a price far below subsidy and independent publishers.** And when you are done, you receive ALL royalties directly from Amazon's Createspace and Kindle divisions. References are available.

Interested in being interviewed about your books? For over three years Dona has hosted a weekly show on Radioearnetwork.com every Thursday at 2 pm called *Culture Coast*, interviewing musicians and artists of every venue. Check it out online at [www.radioearnetwork.com](http://www.radioearnetwork.com) Please tell your friends and neighbors to listen in and discover what our Culture Coast has to offer. If you know any artists, **authors**, or musicians in the local area who might be interested in talking about their music, books, or art, have them contact [DGould497@aol.com](mailto:DGould497@aol.com) for an interview. Now that the Author's Connection is no longer taking new interviews, please contact Dona for your new releases and general book interviews.

If you have finished or are close to finishing your manuscript, it would behoove you to buy a copy of *Published! A Complete Guide to Nontraditional Publishing.* The book helps writers at every level decide whether to follow the path to traditional publishing, use a subsidy, or self-publish; and if the decision is subsidy or self-publishing, how to choose the best option for your manuscript. It includes sections on editing, formatting, and marketing as well. Foreword by best-seller self-publishing guru Dan Poynter.



For more information on any of the above feel free to contact Dona Lee at [DGould497@aol.com](mailto:DGould497@aol.com) or call 941-748-6865.

We now create live action & computer slide show book trailers.

Al Musitano has completed the live action book trailer for the YA novel, *Gothmares*. Check it out on youtube.com, here's the link: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iklBBPIP\\_8I](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iklBBPIP_8I)

If you wish to inquire on having your own live action or slide show book trailer, contact Al Musitano at [eye2eye@inbox.com](mailto:eye2eye@inbox.com) or 941-896-0031. He creates both live action trailers, computer graphics to text and music like Andrew's, or green screen scenarios like Dave's.

This is Andrew's Book Trailer: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q7jGQdjWw5I> Please give it a thumbs up. Ivan helped him create it but has asked Plotting Success to take over any future

requests for these trailers. If you want us to create a book trailer, please contact me at [DGould497@aol.com](mailto:DGould497@aol.com).

Andrew would appreciate any comments you might have about the trailer.

Contact **Andrew Parker** at [andycp1999@yahoo.com](mailto:andycp1999@yahoo.com)

Want to advertise your published book? Your company? Your services?

If you would like to place an ad in our newsletter or know someone else who might like to place an ad, let me know. The cost is \$5.00 a month or \$50.00 a year for three to five lines of text.

Pictures will be extra.

Send requests to [Dgould497@aol.com](mailto:Dgould497@aol.com) write SFW Ad Query in the subject line

Paid Advertising (Place your Ad here - \$5.00 a month or \$50.00 a year)



Florida Author's Book Gallery



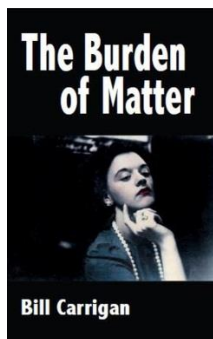
International Online Weekly Radio Show for Creatives  
Literary, painting, musical, culinary, healing, brew masters, and more.



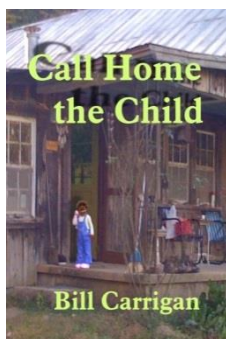
Contact me for help with editing, formatting for self publication, ghost writing, and more.  
Reasonable rates, local references.



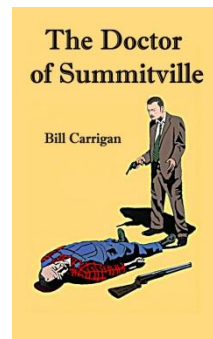
**Read and enjoy the many works of our esteemed Bill Carrigan.** All editions are newly edited and available on Amazon. (Search Books by Bill Carrigan) Read the first three chapters of any book for free. Kindle editions are 2.99 and paperbacks cost around \$10.00. Please review on Amazon after reading.



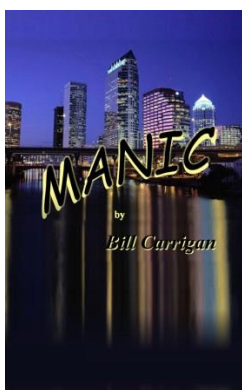
Anatomy of a WWII love affair in Washington D.C.



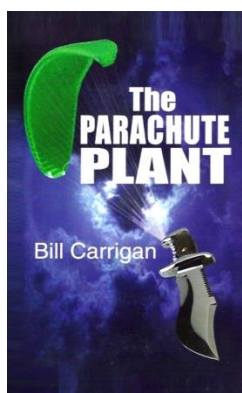
An interracial adoption in 1988 Virginia breaks bad.



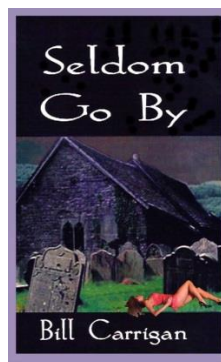
In 1927 a doctor's love affair leads to a death



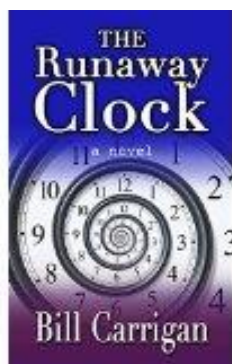
A young Tampa writer joins up with a killer to bring him down. murders.



An Oregon doctor and wife solve gruesome murders. Seldom Go By.



Murders surround Aunt Esterleen at her mansion,



A scientist falls victim to premature aging after proving its cause.



A varied palette of tales and a translation of Poe's "Ulalume."

## **Other Voices, Other Rooms**

Local area critique groups and meetings

An online writing blog for Sarasota and Manatee Writers includes all the vast resources available to local writers. The web address has been changed:

[www.FloridaWritersAssociationManatee.com](http://www.FloridaWritersAssociationManatee.com)

I hope you check it out and find it useful. If you know of any other resources please feel free to add them or forward the information to me and I will add them.

There is a similar blog for Pinellas and Hillsborough writing events at:

<http://www.marylouihess.com/enews.html>

### **Florida Writer's Association Manatee**

**Critique group**, bring six to eight copies of up to ten pages double-spaced.

Fiction and Nonfiction, shorts, articles, novellas, memoirs, & Novels

First & third Thursdays, at 6 pm, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017 & February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017

First & third Saturdays, at 4 pm February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017 & February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017

All meetings are held at **Village Voices & Eclectic Art Emporium**,

1010 10<sup>th</sup> Ave West, Bradenton.

For more information call Dona Lee at 748-6865

or email to [Dgould497@aol.com](mailto:Dgould497@aol.com)

### **Florida Writers Association, Sarasota Branch**

FWA-Sarasota Chapter

FWA Sarasota meets two evenings each month: on the FIRST and THIRD Wednesday. The training room of the Nokomis Volunteer Fire Department is located at the corner of US41 and Pavonia Road. Pavonia Road is the street that has the flashing emergency lights on US 41 south of Matthews-Currie Ford. Pavonia is about a quarter mile south of Albee Road.

The FIRST meeting of the month is dedicated to subgroups of various genres, will be February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017. The members of each subgroup bring stories, poems, articles, or novel chapters for reading and critiquing. The SECOND meeting of the month February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017 is the general meeting. A few members read to the entire group and then receive comments and suggestions from the group. The rest of the general meeting is dedicated to questions, discussions, progress reports, and general information about writing, publishing and marketing.

A half hour of socializing is encouraged for attendees arriving at 6:00. The regular meetings begin promptly at 6:30 and last until about 9:00. Come join us on the FIRST and/or THIRD Wednesday

. For questions you may email Ernie Ovitz at [egovitz@gmail.com](mailto:egovitz@gmail.com)



## **Gulf Coast Sisters in Crime**



### **HO! HO! HOMICIDE**

February 4, 2017 – 1:00 to 3:00 PM

#### **Gulf Gate Library, Meeting Room B**

7112 Curtiss Ave

Sarasota, FL 34231

Speaker: Innocence Project's **Harriet Hendel** is a retired educator with more than 30 years of experience teaching learning-disabled students in New York and New Jersey. Now retired, she divides her year between New York and Sarasota, Florida. Ms. Hendel is very active in both communities. She has taught creative writing at Green Haven Correctional Facility in New York and several courses on prison literature through Brandeis National Committee and the University of South Florida for Lifelong Learning.

#### **Gulf Gate Library, Meeting Room B**

7112 Curtiss Ave

Sarasota, FL 34231

New SinC benefit available to chapter members only. Check it out!

<http://www.sistersincrime.org/default.asp?page=OnlineCourses>

Contact *Wendy Dingwall* for more information.

[www.wendydingwall.com](http://www.wendydingwall.com)

[wendyldwriter@comcast.net](mailto:wendyldwriter@comcast.net)

The Florida Gulf Coast Sisters in Crime email address is [flgulfcoastsinc@gmail.com](mailto:flgulfcoastsinc@gmail.com) This email address is monitored by Wendy Dingwall

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### **Memoir Group**

A memoir writing group meets at the Braden River Library on SR 70 the fourth Tuesday from 1 pm - 2:30 pm. This month that will be February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017. There is no fee.

Call 941 727-6079 for more information.

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AMI Gulf Coast Writers

Meet the 1st Wed. of each month, at 12:45pm at the library in Holmes Beach. This month that will be February 1st, 2017. For more information contact Alice Moerk at

amoerk@tampabay.rr.com or contact the library. 5701 Marina Dr, Holmes Beach, FL 34217

Phone:(941) 778-6341

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NEW FWA YOUTH WRITERS GROUP FORMING

Pinnacle Academy will host our first Youth Writers Group in the area starting in January 2017. The group will be monitored by creative writing teachers but is comprised only of youth 18 and under. It is an open group, membership to Florida Writers Association Youth Writers (\$15.00 annually). Stay tuned for more information and if you know any young writers, let them know.

FICTION WRITER'S FORUM

Critique group

6:30 pm Second Thursday of the month February 9th, 2017
Books-a-Million, Gulf Gate Mall

6:30 pm Fourth Thursday of the month, February 23rd, 2017
Books-a-Million, Gulf Gate Mall

Bring ten to fifteen copies of up to ten pages of your fiction.
Books-a-Million, Gulf Gate Mall

Sarasota Authors Connection

Marketing & Publishing for Writers

Marketing & Publishing for Writers

When: Tuesday, February 21st, 2017, 6 pm

Where: Fruitville Library, 100 Coburn Rd.

Speaker: The guest speaker is Lisa Daily, the publicist for Oceanview Publishing, a bestselling author, and has been an expert on DAYTIME, a nationally-syndicated TV show. Daily will discuss "The Steps a Traditional Publisher Takes to Launch and Promote a Book"

A Writer's Group in Lakewood Ranch

Scribes Club

A writers group! It will be fun! Exercise the mind and develop the cranial muscle. Enjoy the "Smorgasbord for the mind" a potluck that all participants bring. This is the place for camaraderie and exchange of ideas. This offers an opportunity for honing your skills, as a writer. If you can pick up a pen you can write! So give yourself a chance to expand your horizons. Experienced writers please join and help others learn the skills you have acquired.

The club meets at Town Hall on the first and third Saturday of every month 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. To join email AChaddha@aol.com , Aroon Chaddha.



ABC - Artisans of Books



Marketing, PR, and Sales group

ABC is sponsoring a writing contest. See Contests below for more information.

General Meetings: Our members meeting moved to the Selby Library. They meet on the third Wednesday of each month from 1p – 3p.

They now accept authors of adult books as well as our children's authors

The membership fee is a flat \$25

The main focus is still on marketing and having some great speakers coming to share their information.

Contact Brenda Spalding:

www.brendaspalding@abcbooks4children.com

www.brendaspalding.com or Nancy Buscher for more information:

nancybuscher@yahoo.com

Applications are on the website:

ABCBooks4Children.com

#209 1532 US 41 Highway BP S

Venice FL 34293-1032

ABC– Artisans of Books is made up of book authors & illustrators, and mainstream authors. Our mission is to form a networking alliance of independently published, self-marketing, and aspiring artisans to exchange knowledge, share experiences, assist in marketing, and promote literacy wherever possible.

The Sarasota Creative Writers

Sarasota Alliance Church
7221 Bee Ridge Rd
Sarasota, FL

The Sarasota Creative Writers

Tue Feb 14 6:30 PM

The Sarasota Creative Writers

Tue Feb 28 6:30 PM

http://www.meetup.com/The-Sarasota-Creative-Writers-Meetup-Group/events/231753288/?af=event&af_eid=231753288&https=off

Please do not bring work with graphic sex, violence, or heavy usage of gratuitous profanity.

SRQ Horror, Sci-Fi, and Fantasy Writers.

SRQ Horror, Sci-Fi, and Fantasy Writers
a meetup writers group in Sarasota for
in-depth critiquing.

Please contact Patricia La Barbera for more information.

Join @

<http://www.meetup.com/SRQ-Horror-Sci-Fi-and-Fantasy-Writers/>

A Poetry group! (Not in Lakewood Ranch)

Selby Poets

Selby Poets meets on the 3rd Thursday of every month 10:00 AM – noon.

February 16th (10 am to noon) meeting of **Selby Poets** at the **Banyan Cafe** - located on the grounds of the **Ringling Museum**. 5401 Bay Shore Rd, Sarasota.(941) 359-3183

<http://www.urbanspoon.com/r/30/1282677/restaurant/Tampa-Bay/Banyan-Cafe-Sarasota>

Purchase of a drink (coffee, tea, soda) is expected. It is an informal group that gathers to encourage and ‘gently’ critique each other’s work. Park across the street – no entry fee to go to Cafe – walk or ride shuttle from entrance.

Everyone is welcome.

Bring 8 - 10 copies of one or two original poems to read aloud.

Open to the Public / Free

Contact: Gail Ghai

GGhai@ArtPoetica.com

And the Poetry Group is now growing into a second venue and day!

Starting in January 2017

Braden River Library Poetry Workshop.

4915 53rd Avenue E Bradenton, Florida 34203 941-727-6079

First Tuesday of the month from 3-5 PM. This month February 7th, 2017

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Manasota Films Single Take Challenge

Please note the contest later in the newsletter. If you have written a short story that could be filmed in a single take...a one scene show, a humorous joke, a small horror story, anything without “special effects”, this might be your chance to see how you fare writing for video. This film can be shot on your i-phone or any video camera. They are not looking for high-end video. They are looking for innovation. Give it a shot. You might find another avenue of writing to explore. Rules and more information can be found under CONTESTS.

Manasota Films Group

Star Lite Room

1001 Coconut Ave, Sarasota, FL 34236

February 15th, 2017

7 PM

With the New Year, there will be a new location and a new format for this group of local film industry creatives. The group has members from every facet of the industry: Writers, Actors, Actresses, Film Crew, Extras, Directors, Producers, Set Designers, Make-up pros, Costume designers, and anyone else with a desire to be part of our growing film industry. Membership is **FREE** and currently they number over 1100. **Join up on Facebook by going to Manasota Films** and request to join.

For four years they have created Indie films and shorts and shared them on the big screen once a month at local theatres. Now they are changing the format to encourage everyone to work together and discuss what they need from each other to become more successful.

(HOWEVER, the New Florida Cinema film group will be picking up the slack under the leadership of John Lagerholm. See information on them below for meeting information.)

Monthly meetings of Manasota Films will be held at the private upstairs bar at The Starlite Room, at 10th and Coconut downtown Sarasota. The Starlite has established itself as the place to be for the performing arts and artists in Sarasota. Meetings will be in a much more open format, and will be more conducive to face to face interactions. They will have guest speakers, sharing of ideas, and discussions about how we can best support Sarasota's new film industry.

New Florida Cinema Film Group

February 1st, 2017, 7PM at Parkway 8, John Lagerholm launches a new offshoot of Manasota Films in order to continue watching indie films from regional producers. The **New Florida Cinema** is a group of independent filmmakers who meet monthly to showcase films on the big screen, primarily from Florida. They may change the format of the previous group to include CONSTRUCTIVE critiques on films - it's all wide open.

Screen Writer's Circle

Thursday, February 9th, 2017

The Screen Writer's Circle meets at **Selby Library 5:30 to 7:30 pm.** in the second floor conference room.

Table readings must be scheduled with the moderator, Laurie Stoner. She has a group of producers, directors, actors, and actresses to perform the table readings.

They schedule 3 readings running approx. 40 minutes each.

There is more information on Facebook: Sarasota Screenwriters.

Please let Laurie know if you are planning on attending as they are outgrowing the room and only have seats for 30. See website: www.sarasotascreenwriters.com. A LOT of good feedback is coming in due to these professional table readings.

For more information contact Laurie Stoner at mlstoner52@gmail.com

New Screen Writing Group

SARASOTA'S SCREENWRITERS, STORYTELLERS AND CREATIVES

New screenwriting group, also covers storytelling.

Richard Keehn, an award winning screenwriter as well as the producer on the upcoming *Screenplay Show* by Rick Ramage invites you to his writing group no matter your skill level. Just bring your imaginative, curiosity and discipline. The major focus is on the art, craft and – my favorite – the business of screenwriting, but we also will delve into storytelling in general as the need warrants. So welcome. Everyone has a story to tell. It's time to tell yours.

For More Information Contact Richard @ richard@thescreenplayshow.com

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Florida Writers Foundation, a 501(c)3 non-profit formed to promote literacy, as well as enhancing the writing skills of children, youth, and adults is stretching out for members and volunteers across the state. Their volunteers and partners have already started to make a difference by visiting elementary schools for reading days, sponsoring poetry contests, donating books to under-privileged schools, and contributing funds to middle school contests.

They have a new chairman, Tom Schwartz, who is working on fundraising including bringing in a nationally known bestselling author for the October Celebrity Workshop. They are establishing \$500.00 scholarships for students enrolled in a Florida College writing program. Please go to their website for more information. www.floridawritersfoundation.org

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For our writers to the north...

The SCBWI (Society of Children's Book Writer's & Illustrator's), critique group is led by Karen Hamade, (a FWA affiliated group). Any interested parties may contact her at www.brandonwriters.com and she will be happy to email the next meeting information. They are a children's book author critique group in Brandon, Florida, who primarily critique Picture and Chapter Books, Middle Grade, and YA. For meeting information, please use online 'contact' form at: www.brandonwriters.com

There are also Florida Writers Association Groups in Pinellas, Hillsborough (4), and Polk Counties. Check the website for details at www.floridawriters.net

For those writers to our south....

Peace River Writers (a FWA affiliated group)

Group Leader: Douglas Houck

Type: Critique and Discussion

Meets: First Saturday of every Month at 9:00 am

New Location: Wyvern Hotel

101 E. Retta Esplanade

Punta Gorda, Florida

There are also Florida Writers Association Groups in Englewood and Peace River. Check the website for details at www.floridawriters.net

Events

National League of American Pen Women Panel Discussion

To all authors and writers,

The National League of American Pen women is holding a panel discussion on February 22, 2017 at the Selby Library in Sarasota from 5 – 7. This organization is one of the oldest women's organizations, founded in 1897. We support the efforts of artists, writers and musicians.

This discussion is about "The Artist Journey" and sure to be entertaining and informative.

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The **SouthWest Florida Reading Festival** is located in Ft. Myers Centennial Park (River District) on Saturday, March 18th 2017. Gulf Coast Sisters in Crime will be represented at this event. There are over 90 Exhibition tables with Industry affiliated ties, authors, publishers, illustrators, and more.

Evening with the Authors

Friday, March 17, 2017 from 5 – 9 p.m.

Meet, mingle and dine with some of the nation's best-selling authors at the "Evening with the Authors!" at the Marina at Edison Ford located at 2360 West 1st Street in downtown Fort Myers. The evening features dockside cocktails, a buffet dinner and a dessert reception outside in the beautiful coconut grove on the Edison Estate at sunset!

I spoke to the promoter and she will continue to take registrations as long as they have tables. The deadline is to help speed things along, but not set in stone. HOWEVER, when the tables are filled, no more will be made available.






**Children's Book Fair**  
and family fun day

**Saturday, April 29**  
**9 am - 2 pm**

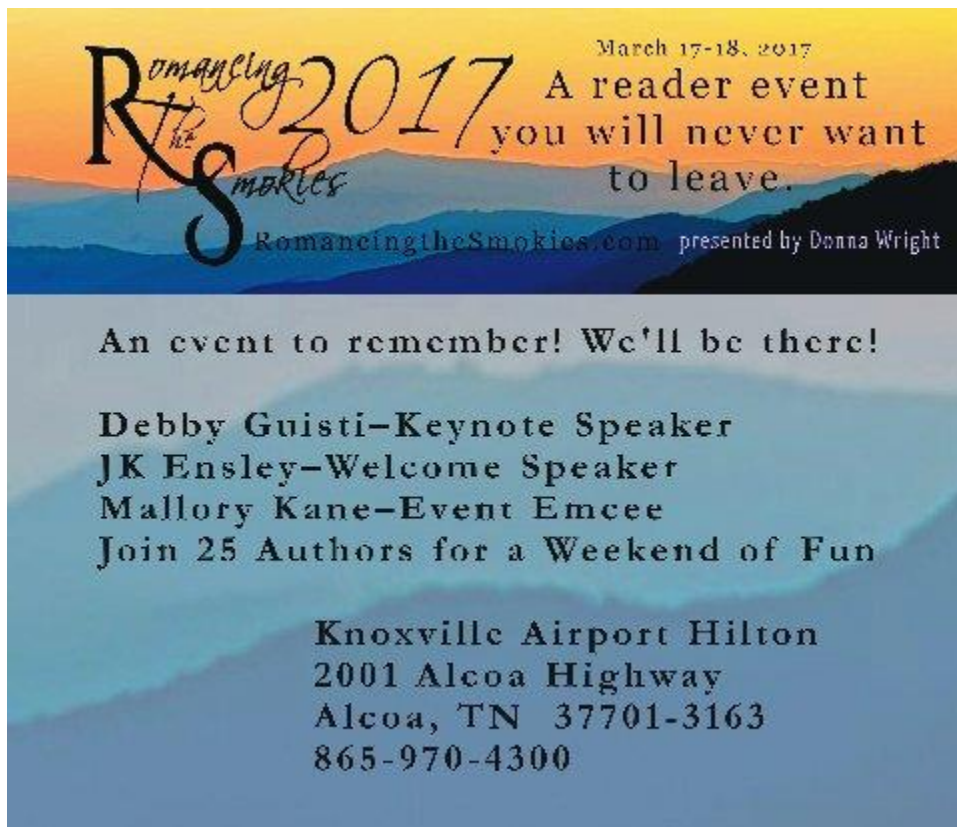
**Bradenton Farmers' Market**  
**on Old Main Street**

**All Local Children's Authors**  
**and Illustrators Welcome**

**Cost: \$30 for a 10 x 10 space**  
**to register please email:**  
**[market@realizebradenton.com](mailto:market@realizebradenton.com)**



For those who want to take a working travel break, there are still a few openings for readers, reviewers, and bloggers at **ROMANCING THE SMOKIES**.



The poster features a background of a sunset over a mountain range. The text is arranged as follows:

**Romancing the Smokies 2017** March 17-18, 2017  
 A reader event  
 you will never want  
 to leave.  
 RomancingtheSmokies.com presented by Donna Wright

**An event to remember! We'll be there!**

**Debby Guisti—Keynote Speaker**  
**JK Ensley—Welcome Speaker**  
**Mallory Kane—Event Emcee**  
**Join 25 Authors for a Weekend of Fun**

**Knoxville Airport Hilton**  
**2001 Alcoa Highway**  
**Alcoa, TN 37701-3163**  
**865-970-4300**

**FOR READER/BLOGGER/REVIEWER TICKETS:**

(Available until March 18, 2017

\$65.00 + \$4.57

(left-hand column)

Includes: Friday night gathering, Saturday lunch and Booksigning, Saturday night Gala. Freebies galore, books, gift baskets, enjoying your favorite authors, and a chance at the ROYAL REWARDS BASKET, estimated current retail value — approximately \$300.00 (and rising!!!)

More information available at: <https://romancingthesmokies.com/>

# Workshops & Classes

Florida Writers Association has a workshop coming up.

**Details:**

<https://floridawriters.net/conferences/focus-character-driven-stories/>

**Date & Location**

- April 29, 2017
- Hilton Orlando/Altamonte Springs  
350 S. Northlake Blvd, Orlando FL 32701

**Schedule**

- 8:30 AM Registration Opens
- 8:55 AM Opening Remarks
- 9:00 AM Workshop: Characters by Tawdra Kandle
- 10:30 AM Break
- 10:45 AM Workshop: Dialogue by Darlyn Finch Kuhn
- 12:00 PM Lunch
- 1:00 PM Workshop: Plot Line by Arthur Doweyko
- 2:30 PM Break
- 2:45 PM Panel Discussion
- 3:45 PM Closing Remarks/Door prizes

**Fee**

Includes continental breakfast, lunch, and beverages

- \$89. Florida Writers Association Member
- \$109. Non-Member

Online registration closes April 22, 2017. Onsite registration available at [www.floridawriters.net](http://www.floridawriters.net)

# Contests



How would you like to have a professional and customized WordPress author website set up for you completely free? Here at WordsandWriters.com we specialize in helping authors create effective websites to help market their writing products. This monthly drawing is our way of giving back to the writing community who work so hard to put their creative talents down on paper.

**Monthly Drawing  
for  
Author Websites  
SETUP FREE  
ON  
WordsandWriters.com**

## Here is how the drawing works:

1. Fill out the form on the website ([WordsandWriters.com](http://WordsandWriters.com)) to enter your name in the drawing.
2. We will draw one name from the entries once a month on the 20th.
3. The winner will be notified via email and will have two weeks to accept.
4. The website provided will be a basic website with these features:
  - A. Up to six pages of content
  - B. Social media links
  - C. Book Buy Buttons
  - D. Calendar and Blog
5. Your Cost: hosting fee of \$10/month or \$25/quarter or \$80/year.
6. The normal \$295 setup fee will be waived!
7. Our company (WordsandWriters.com) will provide the hosting, security, and backups.

**Questions: Contact Joe Jacobson at 941-587-4530 or email at [info@joejacobson.com](mailto:info@joejacobson.com)**

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Ever consider turning your vision to film?
Make an award-winning film in under 8 minutes. Seriously, do it!

Announcing **The Second Annual Single-Take Challenge**,
celebrating the short "One-Take" film. The most fun you'll ever have making a movie.
OPEN TO ALL FILMMAKERS.

Brand new, One-take films only. Any genre, any length up to 8 minutes maximum.

Each film submitted must be a single, continuous take film. NO cuts, NO editing (other than sound, color correction, titles etc.). As this is a "Challenge", the more creative the film, the better. The winning films will be the ones that get the most "WOW!"

Prizes: A beautiful Grand Prize trophy for Best Film. Additional trophies for Most Entertaining Film and Extraordinary Cinematography.

What counts most in this contest is originality, creativity, imagination, and the ability to surprise.

Cutoff Date: Midnight, August 15, 2017.

Nominated films and winners will be shown on the big screen in beautiful Sarasota, Florida at the prestigious Florida Studio Theatre.

Admission fee: \$30 per film, or \$20 for Earlybird special.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Films must be NEW and original films. To ensure that your film has been created specifically for this event, you will be asked to include a certain item in the film.

READ RULES & TERMS BELOW FOR IMPORTANT DETAILS

UPDATE - CELEBRITY JUDGES for 2017 include Sundance and South By Southwest award winning filmmakers JIM CUMMINGS ("Thunder Road"), SHANT HAMASSIAN ("Night of the Slasher") and BEN PETRIE ("Her Friend Adam").

Awards & Prizes

Grand Prize trophy for Best Film. Additional trophies for Most Entertaining Film and Extraordinary Cinematography.

Rules & Terms

READ THIS FIRST - VERY IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS! Before you make your film, the item which must be in EVERY film submitted is... "A Rabbit." You do NOT have to build your story around a rabbit, but you DO have to SHOW a rabbit -or- have a character SAY the word "rabbit" at some point in your film. It can be a toy rabbit, it can be a painting of a rabbit, etc. **WHEN YOU SUBMIT YOUR FILM**, notify us when "rabbit" appears in your film (example: "the female spy character says the word rabbit at the 2:13 mark in the film" or "a rabbit can be

seen resting against the wall at the 4:21 mark") Any questions - email us at Singletakechallenge@gmail.com.

Now you're ready to get started. After planning out your film: 1) shoot your film, 8 minutes long max including credits. Don't forget to show or say the clue in there somewhere! 2) Submit your film on this website. Enter by July 15, 2017 for the discounted rate of only \$20. 3) Tell us where we can see or hear the clue "rabbit" in your film.

Now for the fine print:

GENERAL RULES

RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. Films must not exceed 8 minutes in length, including credits.
2. All non-English language films must have English subtitles or no dialogue.
3. A separate entry fee is required for each submission.
4. Submissions may NOT be withdrawn from the Festival once they have been entered, except at the sole discretion of the Festival.
5. All selected films may be excerpted (up to 2 minutes) for publicity purposes. Films submitted agree to be aired on Tampa Bay Entertainment and Education Network television and/or other venues.
6. After selection, notification letters will be sent electronically: please provide an email address.
7. Films are to be submitted via this web page unless specifically approved by the Festival.
8. Projects MUST be completed specifically for this Festival.
9. Filmmaker MUST have proper license to all copyrighted music, video, and images projected in their short film.
10. By entering the Challenge, you agree to abide by the rules. Films that are determined to have used FX to achieve the impression of single take will be disqualified.

GOOD LUCK

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Don't Talk to Me About Love

A brand new website for Romance Writers is promoting their site with a debut contest, offering \$1,000.00 each in fiction, non-fiction and poetry for pieces about love. (Note that the contest deadline is Valentines day — just over a month away!) Details are available on the website: <http://www.donttalktomeaboutlove.com>

Any questions, please email sam@donttalktomeaboutlove.com

P.S. If you enjoy the site, please subscribe to the website. (It's free.) You can also like the site on Facebook or tweet about the site. <https://www.facebook.com/DontTalktoMeAboutLove/>

Lone Star Contest

Northwest Houston RWA© is proud to announce
The 24th Annual Lone Star Writing Competition 2017
We'll begin accepting entries on April 1, 2017 so be sure to check the website.

A place to find a few more Book Contests

HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM BOOK AWARDS CENTRAL

IF YOU HAVE NEWLY PUBLISHED TITLES TO PROMOTE, WE HAVE AN AWARDS CONTEST FOR YOU



Independent Publisher Book Awards - Axiom Business Book Awards - Living
Now Book Awards
Moonbeam Children's Book Awards - eLit Awards

Do you have an Award-worthy book that deserves more attention? Book Awards are an efficient, affordable marketing tool that can make a huge impact on your marketing campaign. Each year, medals go to both established mid-sized publishers and first-time self-publishers. We reward those who exhibit the courage, innovation, and creativity to bring about change in the world of publishing. This spirit and expertise comes from publishers of all sizes and budgets, and books are judged with that in mind.

Get more attention. Get a shiny sticker for your cover. Get the recognition your book

deserves!

Need entry information about any of these book awards contests? See details and links about each contest below, or email me to request guidelines or to deliver questions or comments: **Jim Barnes, Awards Director** - jimb@bookpublishing.com

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**Midlife Collage** sponsors a weekly contest of midlife short stories. U.S. citizens and legal residents age 40 and older may enter. The Editor selects five stories for publication on their website each week. Readers leave comments and Facebook thumbs-up likes urging the panel of Judges to choose a contest winner. Readers also send the Judges their opinion of the best story on our Closing Arguments page. The contest period is Monday through Sunday noon PT. The first-place story enters the Winner's Circle and receives a cash prize of \$50. Winners of a \$50 cash prize are eligible for a \$100 contest, which we run quarterly. ANYONE, worldwide, age 18 or older can comment on the stories in a contest.

Updated web site address for submissions: You should be able to post a submission at the following link: <http://www.writermag.com/writing-resources/update-my-contest/?id=6863&title=Midlife%20Collage%20Contests>

**[www.MidlifeCollage.com](http://www.MidlifeCollage.com)**

**\*yes, the spelling is collage not college.**

# Marketing Opportunities

## North Port Free Radio Time

If authors would like to read poems or short stories, they can take advantage of a new opportunity on Monday nights at 97.5 radio station, which is in a strip mall south of Warm Mineral Springs in North Port. Readers meet at 7:00 and are taped at 7:30 at the Common Grounds Meeting Hall next door to the 97.5 radio station.

Because the project is getting off the ground, there's no problem for an author to find a reading slot. On Sunday at 3:00, people from all over the world can hear the authors on the INTERNET. By December, 97.5 expects to have the capability to be heard on the RADIO from Ft. Myers to Sarasota. This heightened media range was made possible by a large donation from a community member for a large tower.

For more information contact Dobie Pasco at [sonnypasco59@yahoo.com](mailto:sonnypasco59@yahoo.com)

To pull this station up on the INTERNET, go to: [KDWradio.com](http://KDWradio.com)

The station is ALL volunteer.

KDW Radio is located at 12737 Tamiami Trail, North Port, FL

Station Manager: RJ Malloy 941 564-8737

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Of Writing Interest

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### Wordier Than Thou

Open Mic for Writers of Prose

Short fiction read to other writers in the back room of Sarasota Brewing Company.

No critique, just sign up at the front around 6:30.

Starts at 7 pm. Food and drink available for purchase.

Usually the third Wednesday of each month.

Check Facebook for verification

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NEW A new rich source for poets has been recommended by Pat Gray. For those of you who enjoy reading and writing poetry, please enjoy:

<https://archive.org/details/naropa?&sort=-downloads&page=2>

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## Paid Publishing Opportunity.

Authors accepted for publication are paid. Thank you so much.

- The first issue of *Today & Yesterday*, an online international literary journal published by Laughing Fire Press, is available at [todayandyesterday.co](http://todayandyesterday.co). (.co NOT .com)
- Featured in this issue are short stories, poems, a memoir, and an author interview from contributors either living in or from the US, Germany, Nigeria, Turkey, the Philippines, and Iran.
- Laughing Fire Press invites submissions for the next issue of the journal. Short stories, poems, essays, interviews, memoirs, and photographs that examine contemporary or historical socially-relevant subject matter are desired. Areas of interest include the arts, politics, popular culture, economics, science and technology, human rights, psychology, philosophy, and the environment.

Jed Lewis  
 Publisher and Editor-In-Chief  
 Laughing Fire Press  
[www.laughingfire.com](http://www.laughingfire.com)  
[www.facebook.com/LaughingFirePress](https://www.facebook.com/LaughingFirePress)  
 @LaughingFire

### *Romance Wanted!*

Do you love writing romance as much as you love reading it? If you've written a full-length romance, Crimson Romance wants to consider it for publication! We're looking for romances in all the popular categories (contemporary, historical, romantic suspense and more!) Have an idea for a romance collection? Drop us a line and we'll consider it. Please submit your full story to [editorcrimson@gmail.com](mailto:editorcrimson@gmail.com) with "Short Story Submission – [intended collection]" in the subject line. If we get enough submissions to publish more than one title in each category, we will.

- See more at:

[http://www.crimsonromance.com/submissions/?et\\_mid=624366&rid=235541304#sthash.x3f1PFYf.dpuf](http://www.crimsonromance.com/submissions/?et_mid=624366&rid=235541304#sthash.x3f1PFYf.dpuf)

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Agents

A recommended source for finding literary agents:
<http://www.ebookcrossroads.com/agents.html>

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New Imprint Seeking Romance Stories with Heat

Untreed Reads is pleased to announce a brand-new imprint to expand our catalog of offerings. Untreed After Dark is our new line for romance stories that take the heat level up a few notches from our sweet stories. Even though there is a lot of romance on the market today, we feel that there are still niches to fill. That's the ultimate goal of our new line.

We do have some rules for this new line:

1. Every sexual orientation is welcome.
 2. We would especially love to see romance stories about people of various ethnic backgrounds, people in their fifties or older, people with disabilities, 19th and 20th century historical (1800-2000), etc.
- If you have looked around and said, "I don't see another story out there remotely like mine," you're probably what we're looking for.
3. Works need to be believable and real. No genies, werewolves, vampires, body-switchers, witches, aliens, etc. Need real people in real relationships/situations.
 4. Sorry, but no works that take place before 1800. We feel that market has plenty of material already.
 5. Only works 25,000 words or more will be considered. Short story collections, however, would be fine.
 6. Cross-genre stories are especially welcome (romantic mysteries, for example).
 7. As we are not specifically looking for erotica, the heat level is currently limited to "NC-17." Sex doesn't have to be in the story, but if it's appropriate for the work, that's fine.
 8. The overall story is infinitely more important to us than a couple of hot scenes. We prefer to think of this as "literary romance/literary erotica." We want engaging characters with real romantic struggles and successes.
 9. HEA (Happily Ever After) is NOT a requirement. Sometimes romance doesn't end with the two people ending up together, and that's perfectly OK. That's real.
 10. Absolutely, positively NO: rape, bestiality, sex with underage people, or all the other things you would expect to be forbidden.
 11. Previously published works are definitely acceptable, providing electronic rights have reverted to the author.
 12. Works that have been published through a self-publishing venture (i.e.: Smashwords, Kindle Direct/Kindle Prime) will not be accepted.
 13. Agents and current Untreed Reads authors may submit directly to: Jay Hartman.
All others need to send works to submissions@untreedreads.com
 14. All submissions need to be sent in their entirety in RTF, DOC or ODP formats, Times New Roman, 12 pt. This rule does not necessarily apply to current Untreed Reads authors or agents. If you are unsure if a work would be appropriate for us, please do feel free to query Jay Hartman at jhartman@untreedreads.com.

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Saw Palm – A Literary Magazine published by USF Tampa

Saw Palm is a literary magazine devoted exclusively to creative work from and about Florida. For more information, please see our website: <http://www.sawpalm.org/>

Prepare Your Submissions for Saw Palm 2014, submissions are accepted between July 1 and October 1st.

Saw Palm is a Florida-themed journal, however we welcome writers and artists from across the country and the globe as long as the work is connected to Florida (via images, people, themes, et cetera). We also welcome creative works from Floridians that are not obviously about someplace else. Please check out past issues, available for download as free PDFs. We publish one issue per year in the spring.

Saw Palm does not accept work that was previously published either online or in print. We welcome simultaneous submissions as long as you immediately notify Saw Palm of acceptance elsewhere. Response time varies between 1 to 6 months. Our general reading period is between July 1st and October 1st, however submissions for Places to Stand in Florida are accepted year-round.

All submissions must be made electronically through our online submissions manager. Please upload prose and poetry files in .doc or .docx formats only. Art, photography, and comics should be uploaded in .jpeg / .jpg format only. Paper submissions sent via snail mail will be recycled unread. Click here to submit.

Poetry

We accept up to five poems per submission period at a maximum of 10 pages. Please send all poems in one document.

Fiction

We ask that fiction submissions be no longer than 6000 words. Please send only one story per reading period.

Flash Fiction

We accept up to three works of flash fiction (750 words or less) per submission period. Please send all stories in one document.

Creative Nonfiction

We ask that submissions of memoir and essays be no longer than 6000 words. Please send only one piece per reading period.

Art & Photography

We accept up to five submissions of art or photography per reading period. Please send files in .jpeg / .jpg format only. You may also include a URL if a portfolio of your work is online.

Comics

We welcome submissions of graphic fiction and nonfiction of up to seven pages, whether in black & white, greyscale, or full color. Submit in .jpeg / .jpg format only. Keep in mind that the journal's dimensions are smaller (5"x7") than the average literary journal and so comics with small panels filled with intricate art are not well-suited.

Interviews

We are especially interested in interviews of Florida writers and artists, although we're open to almost any Florida-related subject. Please query us about the interview subject first, via email.

Reviews (appear on sawpalm.org)

We are interested in reviews of any Florida-related subject: author, book, film, tourist attraction, CD, website, beach, park, toll roads, snack stands, local landmarks—anything! These reviews will appear on www.sawpalm.org. Unlike submissions of creative work, current or recent USF students and faculty are welcome to submit reviews. Size limit: 6000 words.

Places to Stand in Florida (appears on sawpalm.org)

Please tell us what it's like to stand at a specific place in Florida at a specific time of day in 500 words or less. While we enjoy the unusual, locations should be public and accessible (so not your bathroom!) Please include GPS coordinates.

Unlike other categories, current or recent USF students and faculty are welcome to submit pieces for the Places to Stand series.

Poems submitted as part of the Places to Stand series are welcome but should be justified left and otherwise not have complex formatting and spacing. This is due to technical limitations in Google Earth.

Update March 2016:

Sawpalm just released their 10th Anniversary Issue with the special theme—Florida-Cuba Connection.

They plan to return to the Florida theme for future issues. While submissions for the journal won't open until July 1st, they take submissions for the online literary map, "Places to Stand," year round. For this category, they accept short (500 word max) submissions of nonfiction and poetry that show what it's like to stand at a particular spot in Florida at a particular moment in time.

Words of Wisdom

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This month we are sharing the final winning entry from our annual Short Story Contest.

2016 Annual Short Story Contest winners:

First Place: Creep by Andrew Parker

Second Place: Case Study 12 by Roberta Lee (Robin) Hughes

Third Place: Spiders & Snakes by Dona Lee Musitano

Hon Mention 1: The Long Shadow by Natalie Brown

## The Long Shadow By Natalie Brown

Samarkin raised a fist, squinting through his blackout goggles at the dust cloud hanging off his stern over the Uzur Desert. His first mate Sitara shut off the ship's thruster and bowed up its single sail against the howling gusts, casting the vessel into mechanical silence. The winds of a coming storm screamed over the dunes, punctuated by the metallic clinks of the rig resting its tired parts.

"See a sail yet?" Samarkin asked.

"Should soon, Sir, according to the heat index," Sitara said in her robotic monotone, rolling over the deck on her treads.

"Which direction?"

"North-northwest."

Samarkin turned in the midday sun.

"Sir, north-northwest is behind you."

Samarkin twisted around, pursing his lips. He felt a tickle at his collarbone and gently prodded his tarantula, Ina, toward his shoulder. He circled his finger over her hairy body to calm her as he peered through the wind-kicked sand.

"What's her signature?"

"That's the strange thing, Sir," Sitara said. Samarkin glanced at his first mate. The robot's screen was computing a series of indiscernible numbers. "I have no such vibration signature in my database."

Samarkin took a deep breath and ran his three-fingered right hand beneath the kaffiyeh holding back his shaggy hair before murmuring, "It's the *Ghost*."

Sitara uttered two short beeps of alarm. "Sir, how can you be sure?"

Samarkin didn't answer. He lifted his navigator screen up, casting the sunshield over it to kill the remaining glare, and zoomed in on the map of the continent of Caspasia. He was in an area once known as Turkey, before the great waste of the desert had buried it.

No tell-tale ping on the radar indicated a registered ship sailing these dunes—unsurprising, as no one but seekers of the Long Shadow would brave the forbidding sands of the Uzur. It was

said a man's corpse could never rot there for all the salt in the air. Corpses, as it happened, were indigenous to the area.

Zooming his goggles on the horizon, Samarkin watched as a distant shimmer resolved into the solar sails of a three-masted barque. The *Ghost*, the storied dread of the dunes, jetted over the sands with such speed that she pulled up next to Samarkin's diminutive rig within a few shades of the dial.

The *Ghost's* square sails soaked up the power of the sun. Her cannons gaped from her gray-washed gunports. If the metal patchwork on her hull was to be believed, she'd seen recent action.

On the deck, arms crossed over a wide chest, stood a man with a grizzled chin and grizzly smile, his face darkened by years in unforgiving rays.

Samarkin blinked against half-dead nostalgia, doing his best to suppress the resentment and pain upon seeing the infamous, wanted Captain Ruslan before him. The stubs of his middle and ring fingers twitched. He stroked Ina again, then reached up and clicked on his ear node. Ruslan's low voice growled through the tiny speaker.

"Hard to hide out here."

"I wasn't aware I ought to be hiding."

"You should have been if you didn't want to be followed."

"I wasn't aware anyone would be stupid enough to follow me into the Uzur." Samarkin shrugged as Ruslan glared. "The tricks a man's memory will play! When we were kids, I had no idea you were this stupid."

"I do not understand," Sitara said, plugging herself into the binnacle behind Samarkin. "Are you already acquainted?"

"Intimately," Ruslan said.

"Bitterly," said Samarkin.

"You can't tell me that you don't revel in my reputation," Ruslan sneered, "frustrated as you might be that it's not yours."

"I have never reveled."

"Right. And am I to believe they've let you into the taverns on the strength of your own pale Shadow?"

Samarkin ground his teeth but neutralized any outward expression.

"You spent your years as a youth tailing my heels like a dune dog," Ruslan said. "Do tell me, Brother brightest: why do you think you can waylay the scheduled caravan in my shift of the sands?"

Samarkin sighed. Three treacherous days of wading deeper into the desert had passed since his effusive, drunken declaration in the edge-of-the-desert town of Voor. He would cast the Long Shadow, he proclaimed, darker and farther than any man before him. He had come into possession of urgent, sensitive comms, he had explained to the patrons of the Red Skimmer tavern, regarding a royal caravan from the Shah of Ildid. A king's coffer of silver, gold, and other riches were to be transported in the safety of the prohibitive Uzur, where none but the maddest dared to tread.

Samarkin knew there was no hiding his intentions after his pronouncement. Ruslan could hack into any town's security feed. He would have heard Samarkin's plans. Samarkin had felt safe knowing that no normal man would follow him, no matter the prize, but Ruslan was not a normal man. He was out to cast the Long Shadow, to resonate throughout history.

And he was a brother who had tried, off and on since they were kids, to kill or maim Samarkin. The remains of Samarkin's right hand twitched again, recalling the cold edge of Ruslan's knife.

"I thought you were flush," Samarkin observed. "I seem to recall that you raided the Shah of Zuruk's treasury a week ago."

"Gold isn't legacy. I couldn't let my little brother fade my Shadow."

The *Ghost's* crew stared at Samarkin with varying degrees of malice and conceit, as if they, too, took personal offense.

"Give me one reason," Ruslan said, "why I shouldn't blow you out of the dunes right now."

Samarkin turned to Sitara, who faced him blankly, then looked at Ruslan.

"Do you know where this caravan is traveling?" he asked.

"That's a stupid—oh. Oh." Ruslan's shoulders shook as he laughed. "You mean, you're tracking it. With an algorithm only your bot knows." Samarkin saluted his brother. "Then tell me why I shouldn't just take the bot and bury you."

"She's programmed to self-destruct if you blink wrong, but I think you assumed that already," Samarkin said, flashing a grin.

"You son of a—"

"Likewise." Samarkin reached up and coaxed Ina onto his palm, then walked her over to the little bucket of sand he kept for her and set her within.

"So now what?" Ruslan asked. "We pretend to be friends until you lead me to the caravan, and then I kill you?"

"I have always pitied your imagination."

"A partnership?"

Samarkin chuckled.

"Then kill me? I'd rather *you* stopped tailing me like a dune dog. I mean that as a friend."

He switched off his node. Ruslan's cheeks blazed, and his eyes sparked with homicidal hate. Samarkin had always thought it was a good look on him. He hoped one day that his brother would complete the aesthetic with a hangman's noose around his neck.

"Sitara," Samarkin called over the rising keen of the winds, "what's our heading?"

"Due east." Samarkin peered out over the riotous desert. "Sir, that's southwest."

Samarkin rolled his eyes, pulled his scarf over his nose, and stepped up to the helm as Sitara geared up the thruster. A rattling cough heralded the engine's wakefulness, and in a moment, they were skimming over the sands, battling the gusts and leaving the *Ghost* behind.

"I see it," Samarkin said, pointing at a dune a few minutes later. "There."

Sitara calmed the thruster, and the vessel sank down. As she secured the ship, Samarkin pulled a soft leather pouch from his hip and dumped gold coins into his hand. With a toss, he scattered them over the half-buried carcass of an old shipwreck on the dune.

“He’s here, Sir.”

Samarkin glanced toward the stern, saw the *Ghost* surging forward. He tucked the pouch away.

The *Ghost* bore down on them in a matter of moments and stopped a ship’s length away, but Samarkin was pleased—and relieved—to discover that the crew had vacated their offensive positions at the guns and stared at the wreck. Ruslan gestured at him, and Samarkin complied by turning his node on.

“What’s this?” Ruslan asked.

“I guess what remains of the caravan.”

“Lies. It’s a trick to stop us from following you.”

The first mate aboard Ruslan’s ship barked orders at the crew. Ruslan switched off his node, then barked something at the mate, who yelled back at him. They argued back and forth, gesturing at the coins below, as the crewmen cast a rope over the ship’s side. Ruslan yelled something at them, but after a moment’s hesitation, the first of them slipped down to the baking sand. Another five followed, scurrying to collect the strewn coins.

Ruslan bellowed again, and several crewmen rushed to the guns. Samarkin was about to call for Sitara to raise the shields, but the lasers aimed instead at the dune above the men on the ground. A hissing screech, a burst of red light, and suddenly the dune cascaded over the crew, burying them in a natural oven of collective insubordination.

On board the *Ghost*, the first mate yanked out a saber as wicked red as the war banners of Ildid. The captain pulled out a pair of scimitars from his belt. Before Samarkin could blink, the remaining crew aboard the ship took sides and all was a flurry of steel and blood.

“Move out,” Samarkin said, his eyes fixed on the violence.

Samarkin’s rig bumped up over a dune, which hid the scene. With a sigh, Samarkin walked up to Sitara, held out his hand, and the bot drew out the link-disc they’d been using for the caravan. He typed a message at the binnacle, then resumed control of the helm, flipping the link-disc between his fingers in his good hand like a pen.

Before them, a wall of dust and sand cast the world in darkness. A serpentine dune devil, a true Long Shadow, touched down in the distance off the starboard bow, mesmerizing Samarkin as he fought to keep control of the rig. For some time, they drifted over the dunes.

Samarkin felt no rush, even when, in her usual unenthused way, Sitara announced the dark form of the *Ghost* coming up behind them once again, and Samarkin heard the familiar voice growl in his ear.

“You fool.”

Samarkin didn’t respond.

“Fool!” Ruslan shouted over the node.

Samarkin turned, feigning surprise.

“I apologize. Were you addressing me?”

Ruslan rammed the *Ghost* into Samarkin’s ship, breaking off the rear thruster and grounding the vessel in a dune. Samarkin winced as wood snapped and metal groaned. Sitara whined a moment, then, when all had settled, continued her work at the binnacle.

Ruslan ran to the railing of his ship, grabbed a waiting rope, and swung down onto Samarkin’s skiff. Without so much as a greeting, he drew back his fist and punched Samarkin, who sprawled on the deck.

“All you did was help me,” Ruslan screeched, his shoulder dripping red. “I’ll get that caravan, and what’s more, I’ll do it single-handed. I’ll do what you told everyone you would do. They’ll think the better of me for it, because I’ll succeed where you failed.”

He kicked Samarkin in the ribs. The force knocked the breath out of Samarkin’s lungs and the link-disc out of his hands. It skidded across the deck and into a coiled pile of ropes, boards, and spare gears.

With a roar, Ruslan spun around and dove into the pile, ripping through it. Samarkin, shaking his head and rubbing his ribs—he was going to bruise—forced himself up. He gestured to Sitara, picked up Ina’s bucket, and hefted himself up the rope of the *Ghost*. Sitara powered her thrusters and landed on the deck just as Samarkin flipped his legs over the railing.

“The treasure’s here, Sir,” she said. “My survey of the ship confirms it.”

“Excellent.”

Ruslan snatched the link-disc from the pile and pulled out a comm-port screen from a trouser pocket, jamming the disk in.

“What?” Ruslan slapped the comm-port. From his vantage, Samarkin could see video on the screen of a younger Ruslan beating, kicking, pushing, cutting, and otherwise trying to kill a young Samarkin, video Samarkin hacked from the security feed archives. “What the—”

“A little gift from me to you, in return for this.” Samarkin gestured around the *Ghost* as it rose out of reach. “I’ll give my regards to the Shah.”

“But—but—the caravan! You can’t take it on your own!”

“Foolish me,” Samarkin said, massaging his nose. He could almost believe he was a kid again. “It seems to have been here all along.”

Ruslan ran to the binnacle and found its computer as Sitara had left it: burnt as a desert corpse.

“You can’t just leave me out here!”

Samarkin pursed his lips, tilting his head a little as he considered his brother. It was strange, looking down on him, as the long shadow of the *Ghost* shaded Ruslan. For a moment, Samarkin almost felt sorry for the man—a brother—tainted by cruelty.

Almost.

“Beg.”

“Please! Samarkin, I’m sorry.” Ruslan fell to his knees. “I’ll serve you wherever you go. I’d wash the sand from your feet. Just don’t leave me here!”



Serve him poison, no doubt, and wash the sand from his feet with fire. Samarkin made a show of thinking about it.

“No.”

“Samarkin!”

Samarkin saluted his brother with three fingers as Sitara set the ship in motion. A guttural scream of desperation soared over the winds. Samarkin ignored it. By the time he looked behind him over the rails, his brother was indistinguishable from the golden sands.

“Let’s get out of here before we encounter ghouls or lamassus.”

“My records indicate that such beings have never been proven to exist,” Sitara said.

“Lamassus, maybe not,” Samarkin said as he lifted Ina out of her bucket and gently prodded her onto his shoulder. “But I wouldn’t put it past my brother to come back as a ghoul just to haunt me.”

Samarkin rubbed his forehead. A part of him felt hollow inside, like he had bested an old enemy and found the sense of retributive triumph trivial. But his purpose was not to destroy his brother, nor to prove by winning that he was better. He had come to cast the Long Shadow.

“Shall we observe a moment of silence to grieve for your brother?”

“Why?”

“I understand that it is a normal reaction to death among humans.”

Samarkin looked out over the desert. Few could make it here and return, but the *Ghost* would get him home.

“No.”

He chuckled. He’d already put out a call for help on his old rig when he’d taken the link-disc from Sitara. Of course, the only people daring enough to come out to the Uzur to pick up his brother would be bounty hunters, but that was Ruslan’s problem.

Samarkin pointed toward the horizon.

“To the west.”

“Sir, that’s the east.”

That’s all for this month. Hope you enjoyed it.

Dona Lee

“Plotting Success”

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Our brunch in January was at a new location, the Bird Rock Taco Shack, in the Village of the Arts. It was the restaurant's first brunch and the food was unique. It got a bit warm when the sun came out and we determined in the future, we will eat inside. Free coffee was a draw. Mimosa's, wine, and beer are also available and go well with the food selections.

This is a pretty good-sized group. I think there were 14 of us. That's me in the back. No one ever accused me of being a wallflower. Al was making some more coffee to help out or he would have been in the photo as well. Joann Glim is our excellent group photographer and I was thrilled to see her back in action. She also provided an interview for Culture Coast, my radio show featuring local artists, musicians, and authors.

I want to issue a shout out to Joann for reaching #2 on Amazon's best seller list in historical memoirs in December. Best-selling author on Amazon is hers forever!



. We will return to Pier 22 on February 19 at 11:30 and probably take turns at a few other locations from time to time to keep it fresh. Please feel free to join us. Drop me a line and let me know you are interested so I have a rough idea of how many are expected.

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