

FLASH FICTION WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Congratulations to our winners and to all the contestants who entered!

1 st Place	Deborah Bean	"The Visiting Professor"	\$150.00
2 nd Place	Leah Hinton	"Blue"	\$100.00
3 rd Place	Edgar Collier	"Everything Changed"	\$75.00
Honorable Mention	Seth Eckholm	"Dream Game"	\$50.00

Each month, we will publish one of the winning stories in our newsletter.

Third Place Winner
EVERYTHING CHANGED
By Ed Collie

The muse of the Italian poet and artist Rossetti drew me to this church. Liz Siddal had inspired the finest artists of the age, and my research revealed her to be more than I'd imagined.

But I left with another woman.

I scoured the chapel for a suitable seat in the North London tourist stop. Spying a gap on the front row, my intent was acknowledged by the most perfect woman who ever patted a spot. I sat down; taking in a fragrance like none I'd ever known. Swathed in a crimson silk scarf, her smile made me reciprocate. Ebony hair tumbled to the middle of her sculpted back, dark waves on sage colored gossamer top.

Following those tresses, my eyes meandered down the curve of her back. Everything changed.

Sitting next to her made the gothic, gold encrusted cathedral seem shabby. She was the embodiment of what I'd wished for at twelve twenty-eight in the morning, on a London roof top. I saw a fireball bigger than I'd ever seen rocket from behind and over me, a cloudy trail fueled by a glowing orange ball. The only sound a muffled hiss from its point of origin, the constellation Perseus. I made a wish on that falling star. The stars had always failed me.

Since the beginning of time, strange sights in the sky have troubled and perplexed man. And sometimes inspired. Charlemagne saw a gleaming shield in the sky at mid-day. He led his inspired army to conquer the Gaul's. Joan of Arc saw silver spaceships. Steve Jobs and Aldous Huxley received life changing visions on LSD. Jimmy Stewart in "It's a Wonderful Life" lassoed the moon for a young Donna Reed.

I saw her back. And felt like I'd never seen anything as beautiful. A woman's back, for God's sake.

The Platonic ideal of a back. See, Dr. Spencer? I did listen in Philosophy.

I became for a moment a poet, a painter. A connoisseur of the best of life. A magic carpet rider. A babbling, love struck fool. All for the curve of a back.

We walked through the cathedral after the lecture. She spoke of Conservatism, pasta, flying saucers, and 'joie de vivre.' I prattled about my work, students, and my passion for Picasso's Blue phase. I wanted to talk about ecstasy and excess.

My throat parched, I grabbed her hand, and we ducked out a side exit onto a gritty street. A pub awaited us – The Angry Lemming.

We sat by the window. She ordered Port. I had a beer.

"What's your name, little girl?"

"Jules." Her lips were red.

"I, Jules, am yours."

She eyed me like she knew things. Like a seer. She ignored my statement of devotion, and asked, "So the artist slash poet Dante Gabriel Rossetti had his muse, his beloved wife buried here?" She whispered in reverence, gesturing toward the chapel's cemetery.

I faced an odd feeling. That of being outclassed. I rose to the occasion pedantically. "Yes. She had been is inspiration for his best work – and some of his

renowned peers. He painted her obsessively, and his poetry, like that of the other British Romantics, was rhymes of rapture proclaiming his love for her. She died painfully, after a brief illness, and two years of marriage. He laid the sole original folio of his poetry in her auburn hair."

"Where did they meet? What color were her eyes?" she asked, believing me.

"Spring of eighteen forty-nine. He used her exclusively for his painting soon after. It's said he left thousands of representations of her. And green, like yours."

We walked into the cemetery. I wanted to reach down and hold her hand.

I barely knew her.

She let me for a moment.

Her pace quickened. I had no idea where we'd find the grave. Just that it was there. She seemed to know the way, leading us through centuries of notables and unknowns, finally stopping before a modest stone. A piece of Rossetti's poetry was carved above the name.

Elizabeth Siddal Rossetti.

Born 25 July, 1829. Died 11 February, 1862.

She read the verses aloud, as if she knew them.

"He feeds upon her face by day and night ...

Not as she is, but was when hope shone bright;

Not as she is, but as she fills his dream."

We paused to consider the words, and then she spoke again.

"She'd been dead seven years. Rossetti's health and mind declined. His agent suggested he retrieve the poems, save his flagging career. At first horrified, he refused violently. 'How dare they desecrate the finest thing that ever happened to me.' He refused to attend the exhumation. His agent claimed that 'her hair had continued to grow in death, filling her coffin, and her skin was as soft as it was in life.'"

Jules' eyes were closed as she recited the words.

Wait. How can she know this? Suspicions erupted.

"Have you ever known a love like that?" I questioned, as eyes burned.

Crossing light at the same time a large Mercedes truck entered the intersection. Screaming, I threw arms in front of eyes.

When I lowered them, she was walking up marble stairs to some governmental building's entrance.

She didn't glance back.

As she entered the edifice, I called out, "Elizabeth Siddal was Bram Stoker's inspiration."

Finally, she looked back. Her lips spoke, "I know."

Everything had changed.

(900 words)

Meet the Author – Ed Collie

Ed Collie heard about the Flash Fiction contest while attending a WGT meeting last year. Once he learned what flash fiction was, he decided to give it a go.

Good that he did, as Ed is our 2016 Flash Fiction third place winner.

The inspiration for "Everything Changed" was a mash-up of when Ed met his girlfriend and reading about muses, particularly Liz Siddal, an English pre-Raphaelite artists' model and poet.

Ed likes to say he started writing at the age of two, although actually it was taking English Lit classes in 2007 that sparked his enthusiasm. Two years later his life took a dramatic turn and one of the by-products was meeting a couple of people at a writing workshop. They started a critique group, and he has been writing fiction ever since.

He says writing is the hardest thing he's ever done. But since his flash fiction award was his second writing contest win in 2016, imagine we'll be hearing more from him.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE WRITERS GUILD OF TEXAS

Encourage Educate Engage

Meetings are held the third Monday of the month at 7 pm.

- May 15 **Leslie Linton** will provide tips for editing your novel.
 June 19 An annual favorite – the **WGT Writers' Read-In**
 July 17 WGT members **Rainer Bantau and Kathryn McClatchy** bring their secrets for writing a successful blog.
 August 21 **Alan Bourgeois** shares 'Marketing, Renegade Style.'
 September 18 **Daniel Wells** takes us into the world of Screenwriting
 October 16 **Jaye Wells** walks us through "Fighting Demons: Internal vs. External Conflict"

Mark your calendars now and don't miss out!

"Weiss-Cracking"

by Jerry Weiss



"I've got a plot for you!"

Passionate, but bored wife, uses meat cleaver on bestseller, workaholic, romance writer, husband!"

The Board of the Writers Guild of Texas 2017-2018

President	Julie Mendel
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Photographers:	Gary Bowers / Rainer Bantau



Photo by Rainer Bantau

Saying Goodbye to Two Long-Time WGT Board Members

On Monday, March 20 we honored two members whose time on the WGT Board came to end. Jerry Weiss has now joined the 'Past President's Club' and received a lifetime membership to the Writers Guild of Texas. Kathryn McClatchy was taken by surprise when her work creating the Flash Fiction Contest was renamed the Kathryn McClatchy Flash Fiction Contest.

Happily both will still be active, although on a more limited basis. Jerry will continue drawing his 'Weiss-Cracking' cartoon. Kathryn is currently heading up the Kate Forsyth June 16-17 event and will facilitate the fall Flash Fiction Contest.

Board officers are restricted to serving four years; then they take a well-earned break. We thank Jerry and Kathryn for all they've done to advance the goals and growth of the Writers Guild of Texas.

Do you have news to share? Release date for a new book? Signed with an agent? Book-signing event coming up? We want to know and help you spread the news via the WGT Mentor newsletter and through WGT's social media on our Facebook page and website. Please contact Marsha Hubbell at mhubbellwriter@outlook.com with your updates.

Member Blogs

If you are a member in good standing, and you blog about writing and/or the writing life, we have a spot for you here each month or on the WGT Facebook page.

For more information, please contact Marsha Hubbell at mhubbellwriter@outlook.com.



Saturday, April 22nd
How to Pitch, Network, and Conference Like a Pro
 with Annie Neugebauer
 presented by



North Lake Community Central Campus from 2 – 5 pm
 No cost to attend but must register to guarantee your seat.
 For more information go to www.DFWritersWorkshop.org/writers_bloc

The Language of Dialogue Spring Workshop a Success

The April 1 WGT spring workshop at the Richardson Civic Center with authors Melissa DeCarlo and Rosemary Clement-Moore was standing room only. They conducted an interactive session on ways to use character's voices to amp up the story. Participants left with a better understanding of how carefully crafted exchanges can increase tension and reveal information about characters and their relationships.



Rosemary Clement-Moore

Photo by Rainer Bantau



Melissa DeCarlo

Photo by Rainer Bantau



Photo by Kathryn McClatchy

Marsha Hubbell and WGT author James Reid at WORDfest 2017

WORDfest drew more than 300 attendees and more than 30 writing groups and vendors. Held on Saturday, April 8 at the TCC Northeast campus, it provided not only a showcase for each group, but a way for writers and attendees to view the many writing opportunities in the DFW area. Time and again we all heard the same thing, "I never knew how many writing groups there are here." The day was filled with panels, classes and presentations by top authors and instructors.

WORD (Writers Organizations 'Round Dallas) is a network of North Texas writers' groups founded on a simple idea: we can accomplish more together than we can individually. The group was founded in March 2016 with representatives from both critique groups as well as organizations like the Writers Guild of Texas. Monthly meetings provide an opportunity for members to share resources, problem-solve, and coordinate larger events, such as the upcoming Kate Forsyth event on June 16 and 17.

WORDfest was deemed a success and plans are already underway to make it even bigger and better in 2018.

Kate Forsyth is coming to Dallas

"Cactus & Kangaroos"



The Writers Guild of Texas and WORD are proud to present internationally best-selling, Australian author Kate Forsyth for a two-day event June 16-17.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Kate Forsyth is the award-winning author of almost forty books, ranging from genre-crossing novels for adults, such as *Bitter Greens* and *The Wild Girl*, to YA fantasy, to upper-grades chapter books, to poetry. Kate is an accredited master storyteller and has a doctorate in fairy tales from the University of Technology, having already completed a BA in Literature and a MA in Creative Writing.

Kate has helped countless people to connect and communicate by harnessing the seductive power of storytelling. She will entertain, embolden, stimulate, and surprise her audience at each scheduled event.

"I like the way these tales are so old, and yet still so powerful and relevant to us now," Kate said. "They are filled with beauty and enchantment and strangeness, taking place in worlds in which anything is possible, and yet on a deeper level they are psychological dramas in which desires and longings and fears which are universally human are played out and resolved.

"I also like the way they speak in an archetypal language of symbol and metaphor, like dreams, or poetry, or paintings."

Purchase Tickets at WORDwriters.org

Readerathon – Friday, June 16, 2017 6:30 - 9:30pm

Half Price Books Flagship, 5803 Northwest Highway, Dallas.

In addition to hearing Kate speak, attendees will receive:

- **Choice of one novel, either *Bitter Greens* (paperback) or *The Wild Girl*(hardcover);**
- **Time to meet and greet Kate, and have her sign your book;**
- **Entry for a door prize drawing;**
- **Opportunity to meet other local authors of various genres.**

Seating is limited. Only 100 tickets are available. Don't wait!

Writers Intensive – Saturday, June 17 9 am – 4:30 pm

Richardson Woman's Club, 2005 North Cliffe, Richardson, Texas.

Based on feedback from DFW writers, Kate has created two 3-hour classes specifically for us.

- **MORNING SESSION** — 9am–noon — "Keeping the Reader Turning the Pages: The Importance of Pace, Suspense, & Surprise"
- **AFTERNOON SESSION** — 1:30–4:30pm — "Building the Fictional World"

Attend one or both of Kate's workshops and receive:

- Choice of one novel, either *Bitter Greens* (paperback) or *The Wild Girl*(hardcover);
- Time to meet and greet Kate, and have her sign your book;
- Entry for a door prize drawing.

Seating is limited. Don't wait!

- Friday evening, Readerathon: **\$49**
- Saturday, Writers Intensive, Morning / Afternoon session: **\$99** each
- Saturday, Writers Intensive, All-day (includes lunch): **\$169**
- Super-fan Package Deal (includes Friday & Saturday events): **\$199**

**For More Information: go to www.wgtonline.org.
Don't miss out!**