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Southern California Writer's Association

September 2021

- **President Larry Porricelli's Message**
- **September's Featured Monthly Speaker: David Corbett**
- **NEW SCWA Member Bookstore**
- **Hump Day: Every Wednesday 10 a.m. on SCWA Facebook page:**
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/southernwriters>
- **Debby's Room: Wednesdays 10:20 a.m. following Hump Day (on the SCWA Facebook page ROOMS tab)**
- **Such Good News!**
- **Highlights: Andrea Bartz**
- **SCWA Cookbook**



Have you subscribed?

Check out our new YouTube channel at:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLrqSfwTMaCi139ISRV50KQ>

Through the 2020 challenges SCWA has risen to new heights with a wide range of talented presenters and programs who will inspire, educate, and motivate writers and readers alike through our online programs.

Our best and brightest authors and guest speakers' presentations have now been uploaded to our own YouTube channel. Our content includes the Hump Day Book Tours, Pub Shops with insights into book publishing and marketing, and our monthly author spotlights and workshops.

President's Message for September 2021 from Larry Porricelli

Hello SCWA Writers,

I heard a lecture not too long ago about issues faced today by writers and believe I can relate to you the essence of its ideas. They are valuable ideas for all of us as writers and authors.

1. Too many writers.
2. Too much competition.
3. Too many used and re-used ideas.
4. Too many critics.
5. Too many ways to promote.

Some answers:

1. Sure, there are many today who tap their fingers on a keyboard, may have a website set up, and many talented writers can seem to drown in a sea of untalented hacks. And yes, today a writer has to prove their value amidst so many valueless books.

2. The internet is filled with many mediocre writers and authors, but be of good cheer as a reader and teacher I have read almost all the works or pieces of works of SCWA writers and authors, and believe it, you have talent and easily float to the top upon the oceans of unexceptional writers. Your depth of skill is clear. Please do not doubt yourself, even for a second.

3. While so much information is disseminated on the web to the world, and ideas are hard to come by, I noticed you as a group have

taken the ordinary in whatever field you write, and made it extraordinary. More so, you have made it unique. Uniqueness in literature today seems hard to find, but I see no two writers in SCWA with the same style. Your work is always fresh. Additionally, your unique styles have interesting plot twists, unexpected literary tricks, atypical characters, and more!

4. Everyone with a keyboard can consider themselves a critic today, but fear not, do not hide your work, and do not doubt yourself. You are unique and I have never heard so many plots twisted and turned around stories. One of our members, Barbara Howe, is a legitimate critic, or reviewer. Visit her on FB and see what a wonderful reviewer has to say and you will be vastly encouraged with your writing!

5. There are so many ways to promote, be clever, use what is valid to your audience.

50 Shades of Grey had a lot of buzz about it. But if you had read *120 Days of the Sodom*, you knew *50 Shades* was new twist on an old idea.

Conclusion: Writing is about ability and technique, and writing discovers and addresses issues common to all, and somehow finds solutions to them. In *Fahrenheit 451*, Bradbury took a very challenging idea of books being banned as threats to independent thinking against a tyrant, and solved the issue of banned free speech and thinking and falling in love with a great plot ending—people memorized whole books and became living testaments to creativity.

Enjoy your work. Your work is valuable. Know that, and keep writing!

Lorenzo Porricelli



We've been posting deeper content to help members succeed among the posts in our SCWA Members Only Facebook group. Make sure your dues are up-to-date and join us there. Some recent topics include self-publishing lingo, landing pages, building your tribe, tips for author headshots, and book launch success. Diana Pardee is curating the best quality content she can find and welcomes your suggestions. DM her on Facebook at Diana Pardee.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups.SCWAMembersOnly>

SCWA Events This Month: September 2021

- **SCWA Featured Monthly Speaker: September 18, 10 a.m. PDT.**
We are happy to welcome **David Corbett** who will speak on “Compelling, Emotional Character Motivation: Defining It. Believing It. Writing It.”
Register at: <https://www.southernwriters.org/>
- **SCWA VIRTUAL HAPPY HOUR: Every Friday at 4:30 p.m. PDT** Join us with your funny stories and Fall Libations for good news and good cheer. Sign up on our website and we'll email you a link and password. <https://www.southernwriters.org/>
- **SCWA HUMP DAY BOOK TOUR: Hump Day is back on the calendar.** Join Maddie Margarita and fascinating authors for lively conversation on their books. Livestream it every Wednesday at 10 a.m. PDT on our Facebook page. You can also access previous interviews on SCWA's YouTube channel.
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/southernwriters>
- **Debby's Room:** Every Wednesday at 10:20 a.m. PDT. Join Debby Chase and Dot Caffrey for casual conversation about the writing craft and anything that you wish to bring for discussion. Click on the Rooms tab for **Debby's Room** on the SCWA Facebook page.

Fantasy is hardly
an escape from
reality.
It's a way of
understanding it.

*

Lloyd Alexander

Have you missed an SCWA event? Find the replay on SCWA's YouTube channel at:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLrqSfwTMaCi139ISRV50KQ>

where we will upload replays as they are edited and ready.

If you're interested in these and all SCWA events, please check out our website for membership details at:

<https://www.southernwriters.org/>

**Featured Monthly Speaker:
September 18, 2021
David Corbett
Compelling, Emotional Character Motivation;
Defining It, Believing It, Writing It.**

Join us Saturday September 18, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. PDT when SCWA welcomes **David Corbett**

When: Saturday, September 18, 2021

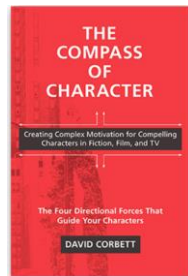
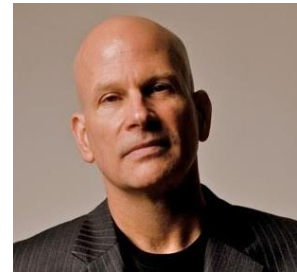
Time: 10:00 a.m. PDT

Where: Zoom, RSVP for your link at:

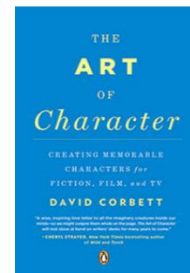
<https://www.southernwriters.org/meetings>

Cost: Members: \$10.00

Nonmembers: \$15.00



What separates good from great? Makes your characters relatable and authentic? Motivation, stakes, and heart. Sought after speaker and author of *The Art of Character* and *The Compass of Character* talks about character and character motivation—the foundation of every great novel.



David Corbett (he/him) is the author of six novels, including 2018's *The Long-Lost Love Letters of Doc Holliday*. His short fiction and poetry have appeared in a broad array of magazines and anthologies, with pieces twice selected for Best American Mystery Stories, and his non-fiction has appeared in numerous venues, including the *New York Times*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, *Narrative*, *Zyzzyyva*, *MovieMaker*, *The Writer*, and *Writer's Digest* (where he is a contributing editor).

A popular speaker, David has taught through the UCLA Extension's Writers' Program, Book Passage, LitReactor, 826 Valencia, The Grotto in San Francisco, and at numerous writing conferences across the US, Canada, and Mexico.

His textbook *The Art of Character* was published by Penguin. *Writer's Digest* published his follow-up, *The Compass of Character*, in October 2019.

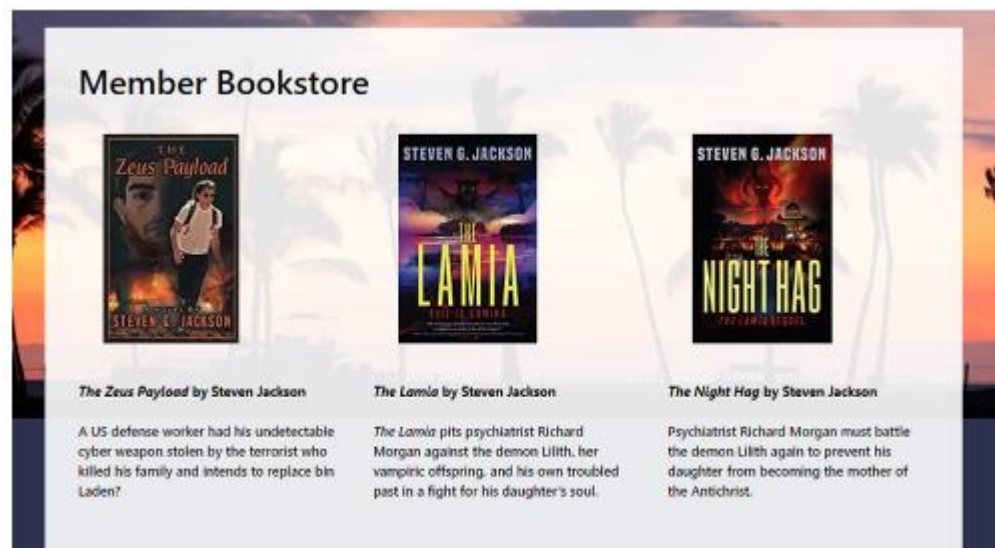
For more information, visit <https://davidcorbett.com>

JOIN THE SCWA BOOKSTORE

At last we have created an [SCWA Bookstore](#) to feature books by our talented members in the Member Bookstore tab on the website. We'd love for you to be a part of it.

We hope you will take advantage of this new SCWA benefit--which is open only to SCWA members who have a profile page on our website ([Member Profiles – Southern California Writers Association](#)). If you don't have a member profile page yet, you can create one [here](#).

Below is a sample of what the [SCWA Bookstore](#) will look like, as well as some sample book covers and loglines. Clicking on the cover image takes you directly to Amazon for an easy purchase option. SCWA benefits as an affiliate.



If you'd like to participate, please use the CONTACT SCWA tab on the website where you can upload cover images and other information (20-30 words) We'll do the rest. Just in time for the holidays!



Lit Up Orange County is brought to you monthly by Maddie Margarita, hosting a lively salon of notable authors reading and discussing their books. If you've missed any of these special events, check on Facebook Lit Up Orange County for replays and announcements.

A promotional graphic for the 'Hump Day Book Tour'. On the left, a blue circle contains the text 'Hump Day Book Tour' and 'LIVESTREAMED Every Wednesday 10:00 a.m.' in white. To the right is a photograph of a camel in a desert setting. Overlaid on the camel is the text 'SCWA Hump Day Book Tour' and a speech bubble containing 'Wednesdays at 10 a.m. PT in the SCWA Facebook Room'.

Look for our SCWA group on Facebook. Click on the Events tab to join us!

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/southernwriters/events>

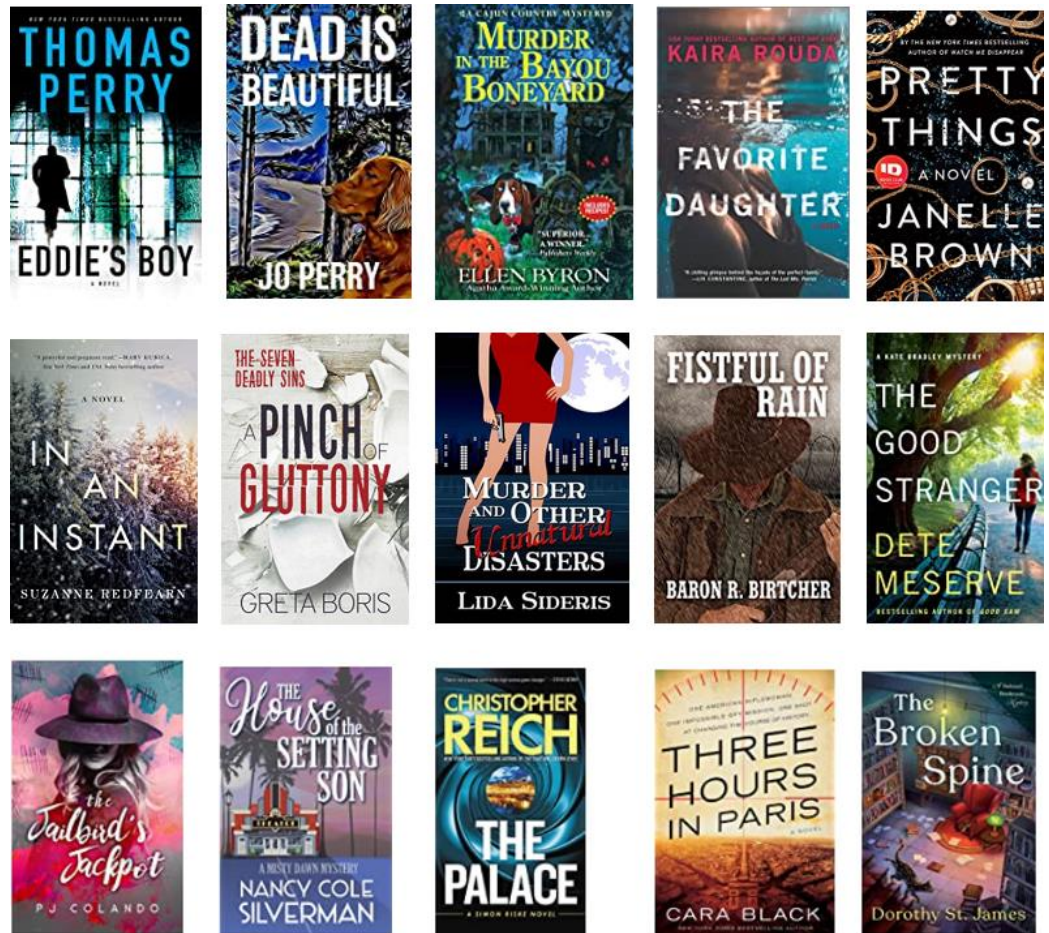
If you can't join us, look for replays on the SCWA Facebook group page and on SCWA's YouTube channel. Subscribe anytime at <https://bit.ly/2I890Db>

Recent Hump Day guests include:

Dr. Mary Hill-Wagner Joe Clifford Pamela Fagan Hutchins Dorothy McFalls
 Shawn Reilly Simmons Nancy Cole Silverman Quan Huynh Wendy Hornsby
 Kathleen Krevat David Putnam Mike Farley Lani Forbes Caitlyn O'Leary
 Janelle Brown Mary Anna Evans Kaira Rouda Laurie Stevens Matt Coyle
 Glen Erik Hamilton September Norman Tori Eldridge Ava Homa Dana Swift
 Naomi Hirahara LA Chandlar Greta Boris Joe Perry Thomas Perry
 Suzanne Redfearn Chris Reich Baron R. Birtcher Dete Meserve
 Anne Cleeland Cara Black Christopher Reich Kaira Rouda Dorothy St. James
 PJ Colando Patricia Smiley Lisa Black Johathan Brown Nancy Cole Silverman

Build up your stack of TBRs with these books by our guest authors:





Don't forget! Immediately following Maddie's wonderful interviews on the Wednesday Hump Day program, join Debby Chase and Dot Caffrey at 10:20 a.m. PDT, for an informal get-together for a bit of writer-to-writer good old-fashioned conversation with people who understand and enjoy our world too.

Come and join us by checking the More button on the SCWA group page, and then Rooms for the JOIN button to **Debby's Room** (or copy and paste this link):

<https://www.facebook.com/groupcall/LINK:mhfmijxkzqkx/?nonce=cr6wv8imps5b>

CELEBRATE ALL THE GOOD NEWS!



California Writer's Circle anthology, *Sleuth: 13 Mysteries* released in August includes stories by **James M. Takos**, *Ninety Minutes*, and **Steve Jackson**, *Just One More Thing*.

CALLING ALL NEWSLETTERS!

Many of SCWA's members offer regular newsletters or blogs for their readers. Here are a few, and we'd love to post connections for any and all of our members. Your blog, website, and newsletter can also be included in your SCWA website profile.

Barbara Howe's reviews at <https://3no7.wordpress.com>

Wendy Van Camp's *No Wasted Ink* at <https://nowastedink.com>

D. P. Lyle's Criminal Mischief Podcast on his website at <http://www.dpylemd.com/criminal-mischief.html>

Send us your links for your blogs, podcasts, and newsletters so we can feature them and let all our members discover the wealth of information within reach.

Use the CONTACT SCWA tab in the website to add yours to share with other members.

SCWA Writers' Cookbook Call for Submissions

*****CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS*****

Open to all SCWA Members

We Want Your Recipes. AND YOUR WORDS!

We are still collecting your short 250 words or less stories and poems for our writer's cookbook.

Enter your prettiest prose, your finest quips, and your tallest tales for our mix of literature and gastronomy. We know the frozen daiquiri was a great source of inspiration for Hemingway's *Islands in the Stream*. And what about Flannery O'Connor's love for ham and mayonnaise? What about you?

We encourage all our members to submit up to two entries. Each entry must contain both the recipe and a story, in any of these categories: mystery, horror, sci-fi, cozy, humor, poetry, crime, mythology, or fable. This is a writers' cookbook so think of your recipe as your muse to Nancy Klann at klancy@sol.com. We encourage your story to have a sense of connection with the recipe.

Please submit your recipes and related short fiction for our upcoming Southern California Writers Association story inspired cookbook. Submissions will be selected based on story quality, recipe quality, and the story's relation to the recipe. Working titles include: **Blame It on the Osso Bucco, Eat Your Words, You Have the Write to Eat.**

(Needless to say, all title suggestions are welcome!)

Due to limited space the **story/poem should be 250 words or less.**

The cookbook will be professionally published by SCWA and promoted with all the marketing might at our disposal. Proceeds will further help fund our events, speakers, scholarships, and publication of books, including this one.

We encourage all who want to join in to submit up to two recipes in a Word file along with their stories to Nancy Klann at klanncy@aol.com.

Please put "SCWA Entry - Recipe" in the subject line.

Members' Showcase: OPEN for your Submissions

Did you know SCWA will publish excerpts of your work in our MEMBERS' SHOWCASE on the SCWA website? Yes, we will.

We want to show your works-in-progress, excerpts from your published book, first lines, favorite paragraphs, and anything you would like to share in any genre, even a page of rants from your journal.

The range of creativity among our members is impressive. Take a look at some of the fine work our members have already shared and then share some of your own.

<https://www.southernwriters.org/members-showcase-2/>

Here are the details for the SCWA Showcase:

- Send the work you'd like to showcase, for instance, first lines, an excerpt, an essay or a poem or something else (up to 1500 words). Include your byline (your name, the name of the book it is from, if applicable, and your website).
- All current SCWA members are eligible.
- You retain your copyright.
- Submit for free!
- Send to scwashowcase@gmail.com

Take a look at the Showcase entries by many of our members. It's a terrific way to get acquainted.

Posting in the Member showcase is always Good News for our newsletter as well as for Facebook. We look forward to waving a flag for your books!

HIGHLIGHTS: Featured Speaker for August 2021 Andrea Bartz



Andrea Bartz is a Brooklyn-based journalist and the author of the newly released *We Were Never Here*. Her second thriller, *The Herd*, was named a best book of 2020 by *Real Simple*, *Marie Claire*, *Good Housekeeping*, *Crime Reads*, and other outlets. Her *LA Times* bestselling debut, *The Lost Night*, was optioned for TV development by Mila Kunis. It was named a best book of the year by *Real Simple*, *Glamour*, *Marie Claire*, *Library Journal*, *Crime Reads*, *PopSugar*, *She Reads*, and other publications. Her work has appeared in *The Wall Street Journal*, *Vogue*, *Cosmopolitan*, *Women's Health*, *Martha Stewart Living*, *Elle*, and many other outlets, and she's held editorial positions at *Glamour*, *Psychology Today*, and *Self*, among other titles.

For more information, visit <https://andreabartz.com>

Writing a Page Turner: Crafting Scenes and Dialogue That Propel Your Story Forward with Andrea Bartz

“The big picture for writing a page-turner,” says Andrea Bartz, “is tracking the hero as he/she faces each obstacle.” Ms. Bartz certainly ought to know. She’s had three thrillers in a row on *The New York Times Best Seller List* (which she says is better than *Amazon News*). They are her debut thriller, *The Lost Night* (2019), *The Herd* (2000), and *We Were Never There* (July 2021).

Ms. Bartz’s presentation stressed the two basic issue writers should have foremost in mind: “What do I want my readers to feel [such as anxiety]?” and “What are my readers trying to figure out—why was something done?”

This author says to intentionally make your first draft overdramatic. Look at all the stakes and then take them over the top. [Specifics later.] Examine again the main character who comes out on the final page. Sometimes a character in that first draft has achieved his goal but doesn’t seem to feel satisfied. What he/she wants is actually something deeper, so you need to make sure the major character is in the driver’s seat. Do not just simply have things happen to him but revise to show him making his decisions happen. “A character shouldn’t be just reactive but co-operative.” Maybe the character is stuck at the start and is self-sabotaging and even pushes people away. Also, it’s hard to root for a character who gets everything he wants. You have “to nourish

the goals they want.” If the reader doesn't like a character, it's probably because he doesn't understand why the character is doing what he/she is.

Crafting the REVISION

- Show the active ways a character is stuck in his self-sabotage. What if he had made different choices? When Ms. Bartz revises, she goes to a scene and assigns it a color trait to help her track the increase of tension.
- When do you add a scene or cut a scene? If one is cut, will the storyline still make sense? “Maybe the point of it can be put into another scene written earlier.”
- Make sure every character can be distinguished from your protagonist.
- Some scenes authors are afraid to write. Do not resort to putting that material into a dream a person wakes up from.
- Inspect all your time jumps. Does anything happen that affects the reader's understanding of the scene?
- Introduce mini-mysteries in the first twenty percent of the story.
- Put exposition into a different scene from most of the story—perhaps where characters can exchange expository material. Build momentum towards a reveal with a touch of foreshadowing. “At least _____ hasn't happened,” says a character.
- Every obstacle thrown at the main character should not only be tailored for him/her but become harder. (Remember the coloring tactic?)
- Has it been clear what the character wants here and there? If not clear, how does the reader know if the character had the success he needed?
- The opponents don't always have to be villains or enemies. In fact, opponents don't have to be characters. They can be a storm or feelings—such as a lack of morality.
- The main problem for the main character can also be a traditional set of norms or expectations that are not working for him/her.
- A key idea especially for thrillers is to have the hero think he and his situation are okay at the time. Then “pull the rug out.”
- Backstory is necessary when the character doesn't want to think about or examine a situation, an idea, or a particular place, etc. This “opponent” can be a storm or even feelings, such as a lack of morality.

Because of her other professional obligations, Ms. Bartz uses the Pomodoro Technique and www.Pacemaker.Press for efficiency when working on novels. She writes 1,000 words a day in two hours and takes weekends off.

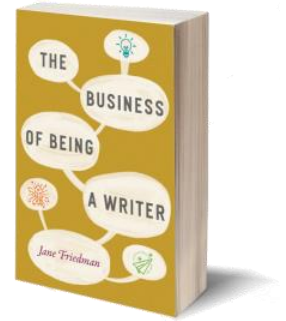
Glenda Brown Rynn, Reporter

grynn@cox.net

RESOURCES FOR WRITERS

How do you find your way through the ocean of resources available online for writers like us? Check out this sampling of what we have found to be of interest. Links are included so you will be able to investigate further.

MOST RELIABLE: www.janefriedman.com Jane has a long history in all areas of book publishing and has a solid reputation for being the best go-to for writers of all levels.



- **WRITERS HELPING WRITERS:** www.writershelpingwriters.net has many one-of-a-kind tools and resources for writers. Newsletter available.
- **Authors Publish, A Magazine for Writers.**
<https://www.authorspublish.com/> Guest post of interest:
<https://authorspublish.com/three-platforms-for-serialized-fiction>
Authors Publish assembles monthly lists of themed submission calls by magazines and journals, often paying for your work. Even a modest payment is at least encouragement, and can add to your portfolio.
- ***Publishing ... and Other Forms of Insanity***, the newsletter for the website **Published to Death**, sends a monthly list of writers' conferences, fee free contests, and agents for all genres who are looking for submissions. New additions as of September 8 include:

5 New Agents Seeking Fiction, Narrative nonfiction, Thrillers, Romance, SFF, YA, Kidlit, and more:

Bethany Fulk wants MG, YA and adult fantasy Historical Fiction/Fantasy, Retellings (myth, folklore, legends, fairytales), Mysteries/Speculative/Suspense.

Susan Velazquez is looking for upmarket/book club fiction and women's fiction, thrillers and horror, romance, science fiction, fantasy, YA, and narrative non-fiction that explores little-known time periods, historical events, or historical figures.

Annie Romano is seeking adult fiction and narrative nonfiction.

Juliana McBride loves commercial and literary fiction, young adult novels, and fantasy.

Helena Sandlyng Jacobsen has a special interest in translated literature. She is particularly loves narratives involving complicated heroines, characters caught between two (or more) cultures, and the occasional blood-curdling, but impeccably constructed thriller. As for nonfiction, memoir and personal essay are her favorite genres, but she loves to explore new ideas in popular science and delve into historical biographies.

See these lists at: <https://publishedtodeath.blogspot.com/>

Details of what agents are looking for and how to reach them will give you a head start for your submission process. Check the website every month for up-to-date information and resources.

Note: Always check the agency website and agent bio before submitting. Agents can switch agencies or close their lists, and submission requirements can change.

Benefits of SCWA Membership

WELCOME, WELCOME, WELCOME!

- ❖ Active members receive up to 60% off admission to SCWA meetings.
- ❖ Members are eligible for a free 30-minute consultation from book shepherd Sharon Goldinger on any publishing contract.
- ❖ Discounts are available for active SCWA members for registration for the La Jolla Writer's Conference and for early registration for the Southern California Writers' Conference.
- ❖ Access to professional network of publishing, business consultants and editors.
- ❖ Participation in SCWA marketing platforms on southernwriters.org and SCWA social media platforms.
- ❖ SCWA Member's Only group on Facebook where we rewind and replay recent featured guests and their presentations.

SCWA Board of Directors

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Mailing Address: PO Box 47, Huntington Beach, CA 92648

Membership: Karen Walker

Email: Karen.walker@mac.com

Southern California Writer's Association

www.southernwriters.org

TERMS OF USE AND CONTENT INFORMATION DISCLAIMER

The SCWA encourages open, respectful communication between individuals interested in the craft of writing through a variety of social and traditional media, such as Facebook, SCWA website and emails. Any individual using inappropriate language, discussing inappropriate topics, or commenting in a disrespectful way will be removed from access to any future SCWA communication methods.

The SCWA communication sites should only be used for dialogues related to the craft of writing. Non-writing related topics should be done via other forms of personal communication. Please review the content disclaimer located in the newsletter via the SCWA website www.southernwriters.org or on the About page of the SCWA Facebook page. The SCWA does not endorse individual opinions placed of any of its sites.

The SCWA receives information on various services, writing contests, and events. As a courtesy, we will forward the information to our members. Unless otherwise indicated, the SCWA does not discourage, encourage, or recommend any of the services, contests, or events. Many of these services, contests and events cost money; therefore, we recommend that you evaluate the opportunities based on your individual situation and interest. Because of our membership email protection policy, please do not forward information to the general membership directly. **We request that all members forward any information to the SCWA President for approval and forwarding to the membership.**

SCWA members wishing to share appropriate writing-related information and resources are welcome to do so via the SCWA Facebook page. The SCWA Board members and Newsletter Editor will determine the information to be contained in the SCWA on-line newsletter, which is primarily used for official SCWA information.