



Quill de Ville

www.WritersLeagueofTheVillages.com

Writers League of The Villages Newsletter

Editor, Penny Thomas
pt0647@gmail.com

Upcoming Events – March 2025

Date	Time	Event	Location
Thursday, 3/6	6:30 – 8:30 pm	Wine & Words Paula Howard and Dick Walsh	Riverbend Rec Center
Tuesday, 3/11	11 am – 2:00 pm	All Booked Up Author Signing	All Booked Up, Colony Plaza
Every Thursday	4:00 to 5:00 pm	Masterclass Paula Howard, Movie Moderator	Via Zoom
Wednesday, 3/12	9:00 – 11:00 am	WLOV Monthly Meeting 'Secrets of Being Interviewed' Frank Lancione	Laurel Manor Rec Center

Things to read in this edition:

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Why Every Author Needs a Synopsis and What's the Difference Between a Synopsis and a Back cover copy?

It's writing competition season and you asked for a book synopsis. So you find your fabulous, succinct, intriguing back cover copy and send that off with your manuscript. **WRONG!**

Your **back cover** copy (sometimes known as the **blurb**) is a teaser. It is written to entice the reader. It's a promotional piece. It doesn't give away the solution. And it is short, fifty words on average.

A **synopsis** is a complete summary of your book. It introduces all the main characters. It highlights the major plot points. It indicates the conflict, the reason for the conflict, and it reveals the resolution -- It shows the ending, the conclusion. A synopsis can be one page or more, between 500 and 2,000 words. The tone is neutral, written in the present tense, and in third person (omniscient voice).

Write your synopsis in chronological order. If your plot has flashbacks, try not to include them in the synopsis, focus on the main plot points. If, however, if your flashbacks are essential, keep the description at a minimum and sandwich it in between major plot points.

For example:

[Plot point] Mary's husband, John Smith, disappeared.

[Flashback] Mary relived the last time he did this

[Plot point] Mary hired private detective, Fred Gumshoe.

A Synopsis can be challenging to write, but it is worth the effort as it serves many purposes.

- Writing competitions ask for them, and not having one disqualifies you.
- A good synopsis helps the competition judge (and possibly influencing your score).
- It is needed in the traditional publishing world.
- It helps the cover artist create a perfect cover
- It's a great check for you on whether your story progression makes sense

Some authors write a synopsis before starting on their manuscript (these are the plotters). Some pantsers (those writers who let the plot unfold as they write) keep a log of each scene change as they go along. This is a wonderful tool to create a synopsis.

Penny Thomas

As The Prop Turns – An Airfield Mystery

MOUNT DORA BOOK FESTIVAL

Rita Boehm

A couple of weeks ago I sent out a broadcast email asking who might be interested in participating in the first annual Mt. Dora Book Festival on Saturday, September 20th at the Donnelly House in Mt. Dora. Due to the size of the venue, the event is limited to fifteen authors.

I received thirty-two responses—most of them within the first hour. Based on the response, the festival organizer, Crissy Stile of Barrels of Books & Games in Mt. Dora, formalized the event by renting the facility.

I'll be emailing a registration form within the next couple of weeks. Since space is limited, the initial mailing will go to the thirty-two people who responded to my email. The first fifteen people who send in their checks for \$80 will have a spot.

This is an exciting new opportunity for WLOV authors. If the event organizer judges the event successful, future book festivals may be at larger venues with more exhibitors. WLOV will support the event by creating marketing materials, and I'll act as the event registrar. More information will be provided with the registration form.

PLEASE NOTE: Mt. Dora is a quaint, hilly town with limited parking. Exhibitors will be allowed a short window to unload and transport their books into the venue. They will then be required to find a parking space - often a couple of blocks away. This is not an event for someone with limited mobility unless you carpool.

Stay tuned for more information.

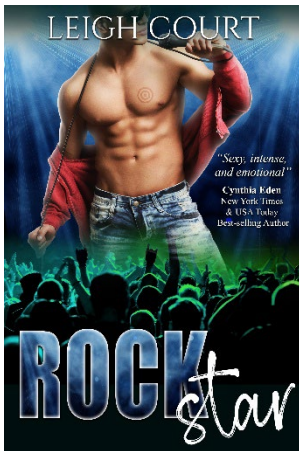
“Without art a man may find his life on earth unliveable.”

Fyodor Dostoyevsky

Reprinted from:

A Writer's Commonplace Book, Rosemary Friedman

BOOK PROMOTIONS



Rock Star – Leigh Court

He's a rock star with stage fright. She's a therapist with a dangerous secret...

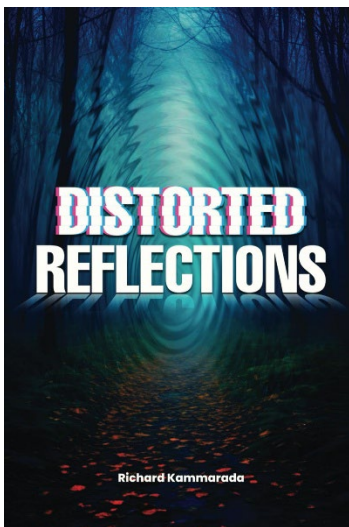
Sebastian Roe was shot onstage during a concert five years ago, leaving him with a deep fear of performing. But his love of music is too strong to keep him off a stage forever, despite the fact the police never caught the gunman. He figures announcing a U.S. tour will force him to get back in front of an audience, but unfortunately, it's bringing up his worst nightmare and puts his sold-out comeback tour in jeopardy.

Mia Merrill was in the audience the night of Sebastian's fateful concert. She loves his music and wants to help him overcome his PTSD and get back onstage, but there's another reason she's determined to become his therapist. She's the reason he was shot.

Driven by guilt and a need to atone, Mia takes Sebastian on as a patient. But no sooner do they start to make progress on Sebastian's stage fright than the gunman announces he's back to finish the job.

"A backstage peek at the crazy, glamorous rock star world." -- Brenda Hiatt, New York Times and USA Today bestselling author

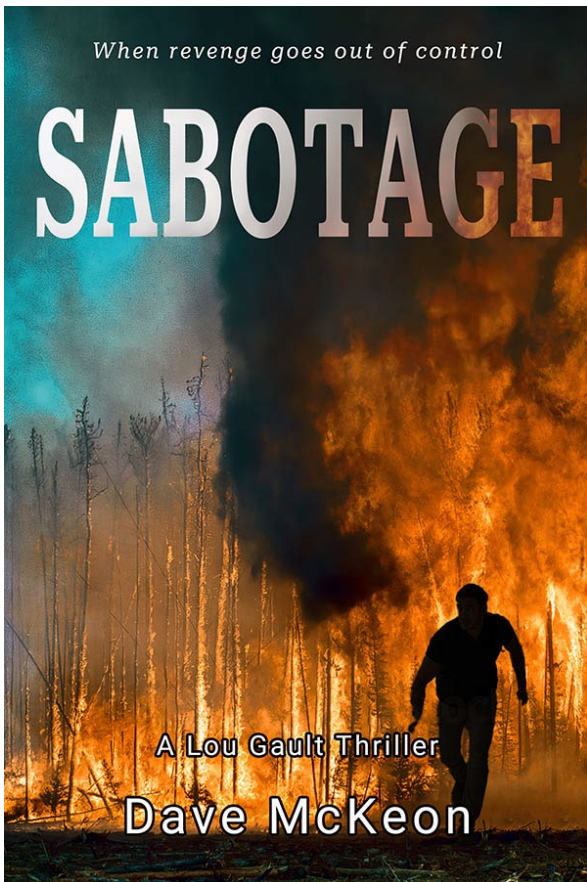
Leigh Court's career as a television news journalist, entertainment reporter and TV producer led to a fateful meeting and happily-ever-after with her music industry husband. Since then, she's been backstage during more than a dozen rock tours. ROCK STAR is available on amazon, Barnes & Noble, Apple iBooks, KOBO or wherever you buy your books.



Distorted Reflections – Richy Kammarada

A phone call in the dead of night. "Your brother is in hospice. "your brother is in hospice." Said a nephew I never met or knew. The following day I went to see my brother in hospice. In his will he requested I scatter his ashes across from the Statue of Liberty. I hadn't seen or spoke to my brother Bill for 25 years. What was his life like all those years? That question resonated in my mind. I had to know the answer. Buckle up. Jump on board and take this incredible journey with Richy Tedesco on his quest to learn about his brother's past. Espionage, gun trafficking, foreign and domestic complicity, suspense and adventure unfold at lightning speed.

BOOK PROMOTIONS



Sabotage – Dave McKeon

In the fourth installment of the Lou Gault Thriller Series, Lou unknowingly goes up against a mafia don, who wants what Lou has, and won't stop until he gets everything. Lou, and his wife, take different paths as they attempt to uncover who, or what, is behind the mysterious acts occurring at his remote fly-in resort.

Murder, mayhem, kidnapping, split personalities, and deceit abound. The peaceful life Lou strives to live is sorely tested, and action shifts back and forth between the underworld controlling Boston's waterfront, and Lou's elite sportsmen's lodge deep in the wilds of New Brunswick, Canada. If you like a strong male and female character, you'll enjoy the suspense in this page-turner.

The pristine environment of Lou's valley and its ecosystem, the safety of Lou's young twins, the ancestral lands of the Abenaki, an indigenous people of northeastern Canada, even the very essence of Lou's reputation, are all at play this action-packed thriller where nothing is sacred as the story twists and turns and sabotage is everywhere.

Available on Amazon, or through the author's website: www.avillagewriter.com

AWARDS, ACCOLADES, & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Villages Magazine – Featured authors

J.E. Rogers (WLOV's president, Jeanne) and her book, *Dressing for Dreamtime* is in the March 2025 issue

Steve Burt will be featured in the Village Magazine for the month of April 2025..

Ronald C. Whetsell will be in the May issue 2025.

GENERAL INFORMATION/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Memoir Writing Workshop

Margaret Best will be holding a memoir writing workshop at Odell Recreation Center from 4 to 7:30 p.m. on March 18, 2025. There is no cost. Email: peggy.best47@gmail.com

DIRECTORY OF WRITING SERVICES

WLOV Board wants to create a 'Directory of Writing Services'. To do this, we need recommendations from you. Services we want to use can be something you offer, or something/someone you have successfully used. Send your recommendations to: wlovwriters@gmail.com

BE FEATURED IN VILLAGE NEIGHBORS MAGAZINE

Contact Mark H. Newhouse at mark@newhouse.net if you would like to be a guest columnist or be featured in a future **Writing Bug** column promoting WLOV authors and their books via mail to more than 30,000 homes.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

WLOV's heart and soul are volunteers and we always need more. There's a 'Volunteer Sign Up' sheet at the back of the meeting room. Or you can Email wlovwriters@gmail.com, talk to a board member, or reach out to one of the volunteers manning the tables at the meeting.

SHARING A LITTLE SUNSHINE

Know of a member recuperating from surgery, down with the flu, suffering from the loss of loved one – or facing some other traumatic event? Please contact us at wlovwriters@gmail.com and share the member's name and situation. We'll forward the information to Our Sunshine Committee chair, Kathy deMaCarty, who will send them a card with a caring message to show WLOV's support.



SCAM ALERT

Here's another ad from AuthorBookPublications.com.

The FROM in their email starts with: "Amazon Publishing" even though they have no affiliation with Amazon.

Their ads are incredibly attractive and can easily suck people in. They do shoddy work for big dollars. **THEY ARE NOT A REPUTABLE COMPANY - BEWARE**



Writer Beware is an excellent resource to stay on top of scams targeting writers. This article, The Impersonation List by Victoria Strauss, has some good tips on what to look out for. <https://writerbeware.blog/2024/03/15/the-impersonation-list/>

Writer UnBoxed is another good resource for scams.

<https://writerunboxed.com/2024/10/25/just-for-authors-writer-bewares-go-to-online-resources/> Victoria Strauss writes about Go-to Online Resources.



Tip 2 - Title and abstract: sell your paper!

Book Expo Round Up

We're pleased to announce that the winners of the raffle to win baskets of books from our talented authors are as follows:

Sandy Starker, Patricia Wisnieski, Theresa Wiederoder, Donna Kindel

Pictures of our winners are included in the BookExpo 2025 album on our Writers League Facebook Page.

Page link: <https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.1040420488125608&type=3>

If you missed the talks by our incredible speakers, "Rocky" Seader and Mike Bowling, we've posted links to their videos on the Programs tab of our Writers League website.

Link: <https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.1040420488125608&type=3>

The following link will take you to the Programs tab:

<https://writersleagueofthevillages.com/index.php/programs/>

Click on **BOOKEXPO 2025 - MIKE** for Mike Bowling's talk

and **BOOKEXPO 2025 - ROCKY** for "Rocky" Saeder of Rocky & The Rollers

Mark your calendars: BookExpo 2026 will be held on Sunday, January 26, 2026 at Eisenhower Recreation Center.

We hope to see you there!

Regards,

Rita Boehm, BookExpo 2025 Chair

“...television has made us extraordinarily well informed on subjects we know nothing about.”

Michael Holroyd

Reprinted from:

A Writer's Commonplace Book, Rosemary Friedman

