



★ April Meeting ★

April 8, Edison Library, Stelton Road

Creating a Compelling Plot Using the Hero's Journey by Caridad Pineiro

Creating a compelling plot is key to any successful novel, but what is the secret to a plot that makes sense and pacing which pulls a reader to the next page? *USA Today* and *NY Times* bestseller Caridad Pineiro will help you learn the secrets behind the Hero's Journey and how you can use this helpful tool to make your plot and pacing zing! Caridad will be discussing the history behind this plotting technique as well as the basic steps in the Hero's Journey. To allow her fellow writers to better understand the technique, Caridad will be using familiar movies to highlight the various steps in the Hero's Journey. Caridad recommends that you take a moment and watch one (or more) of the following movies to help you fully appreciate the workshop:

Disney's Beauty and the Beast
Officer and a Gentleman
Pretty Woman
The Replacements
Star Wars (the 1977 original)

About Caridad Pineiro: *NY Times* and *USA Today* Bestseller Caridad Pineiro is the author of over 50 novels/novellas and has sold over one million books worldwide. Caridad writes romantic suspense, military romance, contemporary romance, paranormal romance, and vampire suspense. Caridad is also a Jersey Girl who loves to travel, cook, & spend time with family & friends. Caridad writes dark and sexy novels and novellas for those who live to love on the edge. Her sweet, but still naughty side, Charity Pineiro, writes contemporary romances packed with emotion and humor. For more information on Caridad/Charity, please visit www.caridad.com.

**BROWN BAG DISCUSSION**

Following our monthly Featured Speaker presentation we are bringing back Brown Bag discussion workshops. On alternating months we will discuss topics related to technical issues and the craft of writing and/or host critique sessions.

This month (April) we will have a critique session. Please bring at least 5 copies of up to 3 pages that you would like to have critiqued.



★President's Letter★

The Italians say that “Marzo é pazzo” (March is crazy) and it certainly feels that way with the cold weather, snow, and all the last minute preparation for our annual conference. Many thanks again to our conference chair, Rayna Vause, and her committee for a wonderful job.

Much as I am chomping at the bit for warmer weather and signs of spring, our conference also leaves me with fresh enthusiasm and ideas on what to do next with my writing and my career. Invariably it takes me a week or so to corral all those thoughts and formulate a plan for what to do or how to apply all that I've learned.

As the President of our group, it also has me thinking about whether we've satisfied our members with the selection of speakers and the nature of the panels as well as a variety of other things, such as promo and networking opportunities, time for social gathering, etc. In order to improve the conference, please help us by taking a short survey and let us know what kinds of things you liked (or didn't) and what you'd like to see for next year's conference. You can find the survey here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JM388HH>.

Looking forward to seeing you all at the April meeting.

Caridad (Charity) Pineiro
President

P.S. – If you like receiving the newsletter, we could use some help with gathering articles and member news. If you'd like to volunteer, please contact me at caridadpineiro@gmail.com.

★Industry News and Helpful Articles for Writers★

“5 Ways to Redesign Your Career in Publishing” by Beth Bacon <http://bit.ly/2msC1Jw>

“7 Tips for Achieving Your Goals From a Productivity Expert” by Abbey Stone <http://bit.ly/2lYxoXH>

“13 Sites to Publicize, Promote and Market Your Book With Little or No Marketing Budget” by Joan Stewart <http://bit.ly/2nvmc63>

“23 Words or Phrases to Eliminate From Your Writing [Infographic]” by Noemi Tasarra-Twigg <http://bit.ly/2leysqS>

“The 100 Best Websites for Writers in 2017” by Marisol Dahl at *The Write Life* <http://bit.ly/2luRg4r>

“Dissecting the Romance Blurb” by Jennifer Crusie <http://bit.ly/2lNrCdZ>

“How to Sell More Books” on Amazon by *Written Word Media* <http://bit.ly/2lDQ6rD>

“Pixar's 22 Rules of Storytelling” from *Open Culture* <http://bit.ly/2nvlxS7>

“Publishers are hiring 'sensitivity readers' to flag potentially offensive content” by Everdeen Mason *The Washington Post* <http://trib.in/2msER1f>

“Ranking America's Largest Publishers” by Jim Milliot at *Publishers Weekly* <http://bit.ly/2mispEU>

“Sourcebooks Expands Children’s Program in Deal with March 4th” by Jim Milliot at *Publishers Weekly*
<http://bit.ly/2msC1cj>

“Writing for Video Games” by Kevin Murnane <http://bit.ly/2msm467>

★ This Month’s Writing Tip ★

Tips About Pronouns by Lois Winston

Pronouns are the most misused words in the English language. There are three types of pronouns – the nominative, the possessive, and the objective.

Nominative: I, you, he, she, it, we, they, and who

Possessive: my, your, yours, his, her, hers, its, our, ours, their, theirs, and whose

Objective: me, you, him, her, it, us, them, and whom

Too often people use the nominative instead of the objective because they think it makes them sound more educated to use *I, he, or she* instead of *me, him, or her*. However, substituting the nominative for the objective when the objective is called for will produce the opposite result. It’s as wrong as using the objective case as the subject of a sentence. You wouldn’t say, “Him and me are going fishing”, and you should never say, “She gave the books to Zack and I.” The objective form of a pronoun must be used when the pronoun is the direct object of a sentence or is part of a prepositional phrase.

Here are some more examples:

Wrong: I was getting the distinct impression that Batswin’s latest theory involved Erica and I in cahoots to bump off Marllys.

Right: I was getting the distinct impression that Batswin’s latest theory involved Erica and me in cahoots to bump off Marllys.

Wrong: “Who else has a key besides you and I?”

Right: “Who else has a key besides you and me?”

USA Today bestselling author Lois Winston straddles two worlds. She’s an award-winning author of mystery, romance, romantic suspense, humorous women’s fiction, children’s chapter books, and non-fiction under her own name and as Emma Carlyle. She’s also an award-winning designer of needlework and crafts projects for magazines, craft book publishers, and craft kit manufacturers. Like Anastasia, the protagonist in her Anastasia Pollack Crafting Mystery series, Lois worked for several years as a crafts editor. A graduate of the prestigious Tyler School of Art, she often draws on her art and design background for much of the source material in her fiction. You can find out more about Lois at www.LoisWinston.com.

Have a tip to share? Please email your tip to contact@lsfwriters.com.

★ Member News ★

Sha Renée’s *Forbidden Kisses*, a military romance, was released on December 6, 2106. For more information, please visit <http://bit.ly/ForbiddenKissesAZ>.

Welcome to new members Michael S. Daigle, Ann W. Shannon, Erin Zirpolo, Paul Deane, Charles Femia, and Kim Bongiorno.

Have member news or a new release to share? Please email your news to contact@lsfwriters.com.

★Workshop Updates★

You must login to the Members Only section to access these materials.

The presentation materials for the Chanel Cleeton workshop, “What to Expect: Tips and Tools to Prepare for Your Book Release” are available here: <http://wp.me/P2LQVq-116>

The handouts for the Paula Chaffee Scardamalia workshop, “Using Tarot to Write Scenes that Sizzle Surprise” are available here: <http://wp.me/P2LQVq-118>

The Video for the Rachel Kenley workshop, “Growing Your Audience Without Having To ‘Sell.’”, is available here: <http://bit.ly/2m69nxS>

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