



Opportunities in Speculative Fiction for Emerging Writers

KimFalconer.com

&

[Northern Rivers Writers' Centre](#)

April 15, 2010

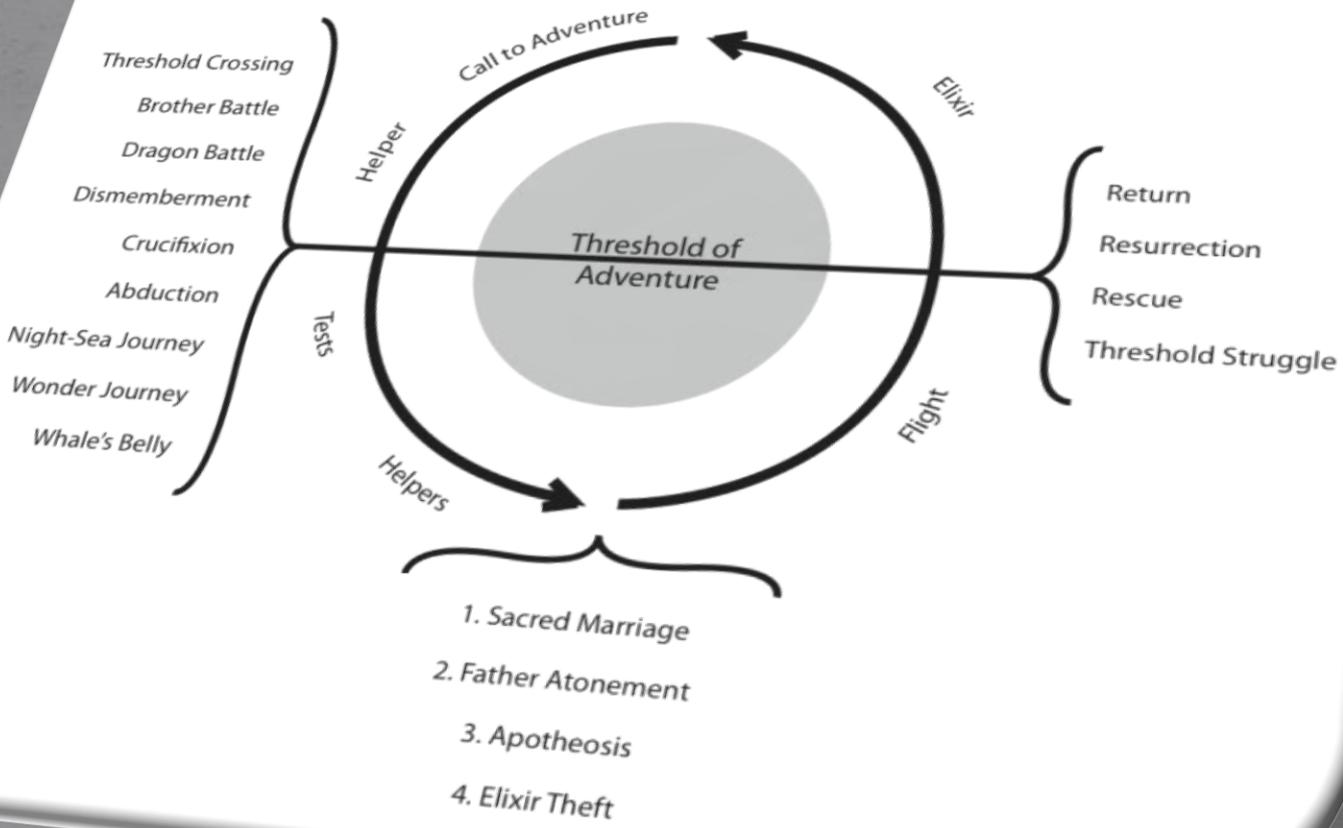
Follow your bliss

and doors will open where once there were only walls.

Joseph Campbell



The Hero's Journey



The Call to Adventure

The call to adventure is the point in the hero's life when they are given notice that everything is going to change, whether they know it or not.



You Always Have a Choice



Take the blue pill
and the story
ends . . .

Take the red pill
and you stay in
Wonderland,
and I show you
how deep the
rabbit-hole goes.

Crossing the Threshold



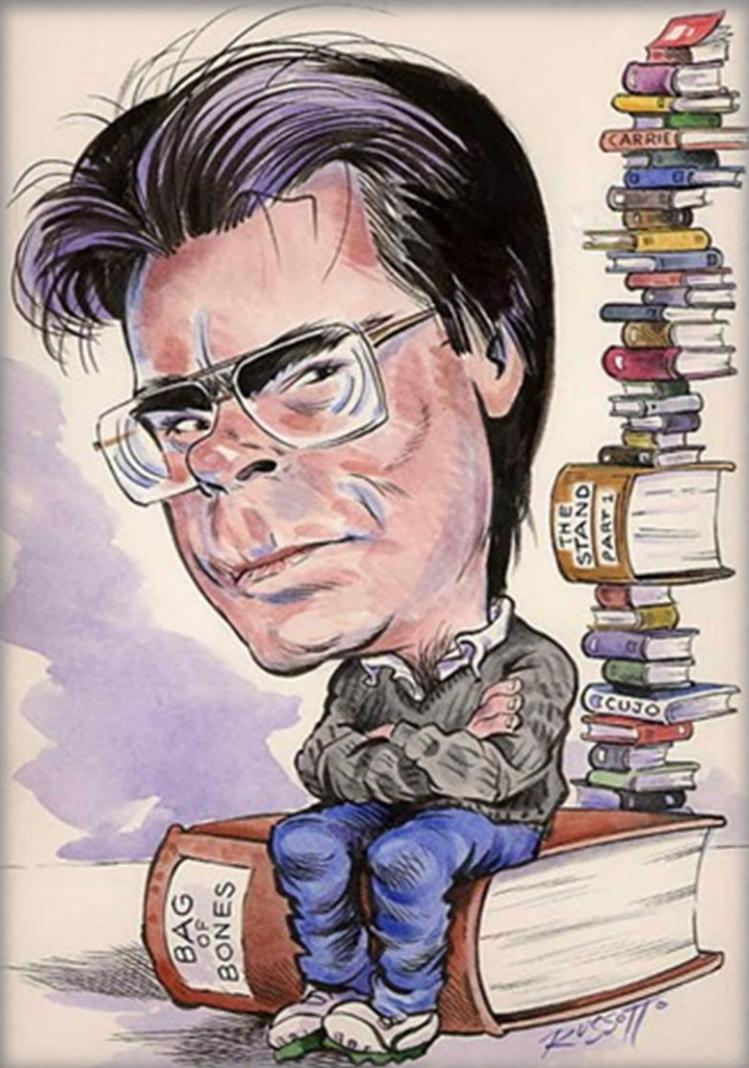
Begin to write and the known lands are left far behind.

V



Once you
commit to the
quest,
consciously or
unconsciously,
guides and
magical helpers
will appear.

Read, Study, Research



- ‘You need a room to write in, a room with a door. You have to treat it like a job. You have to show up and if you do, sooner or later the muse will too.’

Stephen King

Attract Your Muse



- Show up
- Non-judgment
- Meditation
Music/Dance
- Ritual Routine
- Dreams
- Physical Exercise
- Food
- Reading
- Good Vibes
- Clear a Space

[Evoking the Muse](#)

Nail Your Genre Write What You Love

a writer goes on a journey
the story of the author - you

Science in My Fiction
Short story contest
April 1 to June 30 * 2.5k-10k words
inspired by science * No entry fee
400 in prizes
<http://crossedgenres.com/simf/contest>

SEARCH search

HOME ARTICLES REVIEWS WRITESPACE EVENTS BLOG BOOK REGISTER AUST SF BLOG CARNIVAL CONTACT

Gillian Polack interviews Bruce Gillespie
GILLIAN POLACK
FRIDAY, 02 APRIL 2010

Bruce Gillespie is a rather special bloke. He's had his pulse on Australian speculative fiction writing for a while now. He produces several fanzines, keeping disparate members of the community in t

[Full Story](#)

Elizabeth Kostova in conversation - part 2
ROSS HAMILTON
Your protagonist in *The Swan Thieves* is a psychiatrist – how do you go about getting into the head of someone from a specific profession such as that in developing your character? ~reads aloud the first page of chapter three where the psychiatrist...

Elizabeth Kostova in Conversation - part 1
ROSS HAMILTON
Elizabeth Kostova could possibly be viewed as an overnight success. Her debut novel, *The Historian*, exploded into the best-seller lists, knocking Dan Brown's *The Da Vinci Code* off the top place. Yet like many 'overnight success' stories, th...

Cloning About
PHILLIP BERRIE
The first misconception about biological cloning that I'd like to clear up is that cloning is not the duplication of an existing person. For that you need malfunctioning Star Trek transporter technology (i.e. Star Trek: The Next Generation "Seco...

Hosts: Helen Venn (Egoboo Writers WA)

LATEST REVIEWS

Succubus In The City
Reviewed by Always
2.4

The Griffin's Flight
Reviewed by Itaike
3.2

Under the Dome
Reviewed by success
4.8

Queen Victoria: Demon Hunter
Reviewed by success
3.6

Prophecy of the Sisters
Reviewed by itenix
3.2

LATEST BLOG POSTS

Do you long to Belong? Pt 2
Bookfan power - What is the

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Forgot your username?
Create an account

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Review, Subscribe & Contribute!

- [Black](#)
- [Specusphere](#)
- [Aurealis Xpress](#)
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- [FANGtastic Fiction](#)
- [Andromeda Spaceways](#)



The screenshot shows the website for www.specusphere.com. The header features the URL and the tagline "Webzine for consumers and creators of speculative fiction" over a background image of a person and a creature. The main content area is divided into three columns. The left column is a blue sidebar with a "MAIN MENU" containing links for Home, News, About Us, Articles, Reviews, Up and Coming, Past Issues, Email bulletin, Directory, and Links. Below the menu is a "LOG IN" section with fields for Username and Password, a "Remember me" checkbox, and a "LOGIN" button. The middle column has a "WELCOME TO THE SPECUSPHERE" heading and a paragraph describing the site as a hub for interaction between writers, artists, fans, publishers, producers and thinkers who have a passion for speculative fiction in Australia. It also includes links for an email bulletin list and more information about defining speculative fiction. The right column is titled "WEBZINE - LATEST ISSUE" and features a graphic for "Feb-Mar 2010 WEBZINE #12 The SPECUSPHERE". At the bottom, there is a "Webzine 12 Contents — February 2010" section with the text "Written by Administrator" and "Sunday, 07 February 2010". A blue box at the bottom right contains "Submission Guidelines" and a stylized logo for "SUBMISSIONS".



Get a WEB Life!



- [Twitter](#)
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- [Wordpress](#)
- [Live Journal](#)
- [Infinitas Forum](#)
- [Voyager Forum](#)
- [Authonomy Forum](#)



Higher Education

[Skip to Main Content](#)

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MyArea

Welcome Kim

My study:

- Shortlist (0)
- Student updates
- Active units
- My Results
- Contact list
- Orientation
- Discussion forums

My details:

- Personal details
- Change password
- Change security question

My accounts:

- Shopping basket
- Make a payment
- FEE-HELP eCAN
- Online Enquiry Form

 [Not sure what a word means?](#)

[Glossary >>](#)

News and announcements

29 Mar 2010 [Easter Operating Hours](#)
The OUA Student Advisor office will be closed for Easter public holidays on Friday 2 April and Monday 5 April...

26 Mar 2010 [Get back on track in SP1](#)
If you're enrolled in Study Period 1 and feel you could use some extra support to get you through the study period, you could benefit from our three-week online enabling course PREP04: Enabling Academic Success...

[News and announcements >](#)

Student Orientation



Hot topics

- [Changing your study program](#)
- [Study materials - what to expect](#)
- [How do I access my online learning materials?](#)
- [Textbooks](#)

Do you need?

- [OUA Student Advisors](#)
- [Crisis Support Counselling](#)
- [OUA Student Resources](#)

Student life

- [Student life](#)
- [Getting started](#)
- [OUA student card](#)
- [What to expect](#)
- [Time management](#)
- [Tips for essay writing](#)
- [Quick Skills modules](#)

Important dates for Study Period 1

Close of enrolment:
14 February 2010

Start date:
1 March 2010

Census date:
21 March 2010

End date:
28 May 2010

[Academic calendar](#)

Improve your academic writing

Check out the Gateway to Academic Literacy

CareerSpace

Get the job you're studying for

Competitions

ABR AUSTRALIAN BOOK REVIEW

The most trustworthy guide to new books in Australia today, marrying reviewers to books with wondrous felicity. J.M. Coetzee

Current issue Subscribe About ABR Past issues Competitions Advertise Support Us ABR blog

Short Story Competition

Enter the ABR Short Story Competition

ABR's suite of literary competitions are well known throughout Australia and help foster the creation of fine new writing. To complement the Calibre Prize for an Outstanding Essay, Young Calibre, the ABR Poetry Prize and the ABR Reviewing Competition, we now seek entries in the ABR Short Story Competition.

The vogue for short fiction, long dimmed in this country, has revived in recent years. The authors of short stories ranging from 1000 to 3000 words are invited to enter the competition, and multiple entries are acceptable. Stories must not have been published earlier or be on offer to other publishers. You have until May 10 to enter. See the entry form for a complete list of terms and conditions.

CLICK TO ENTER THE ENTRY FORM

First Prize: \$2000
Second Prize: \$500
Third Prize: three-year subscription to ABR

Prizes include publication in ABR

Entries close 10 May 2010

All enquiries: abr@australianbookreview.com.au

Penelope Hanle

CREATIVE LIVES

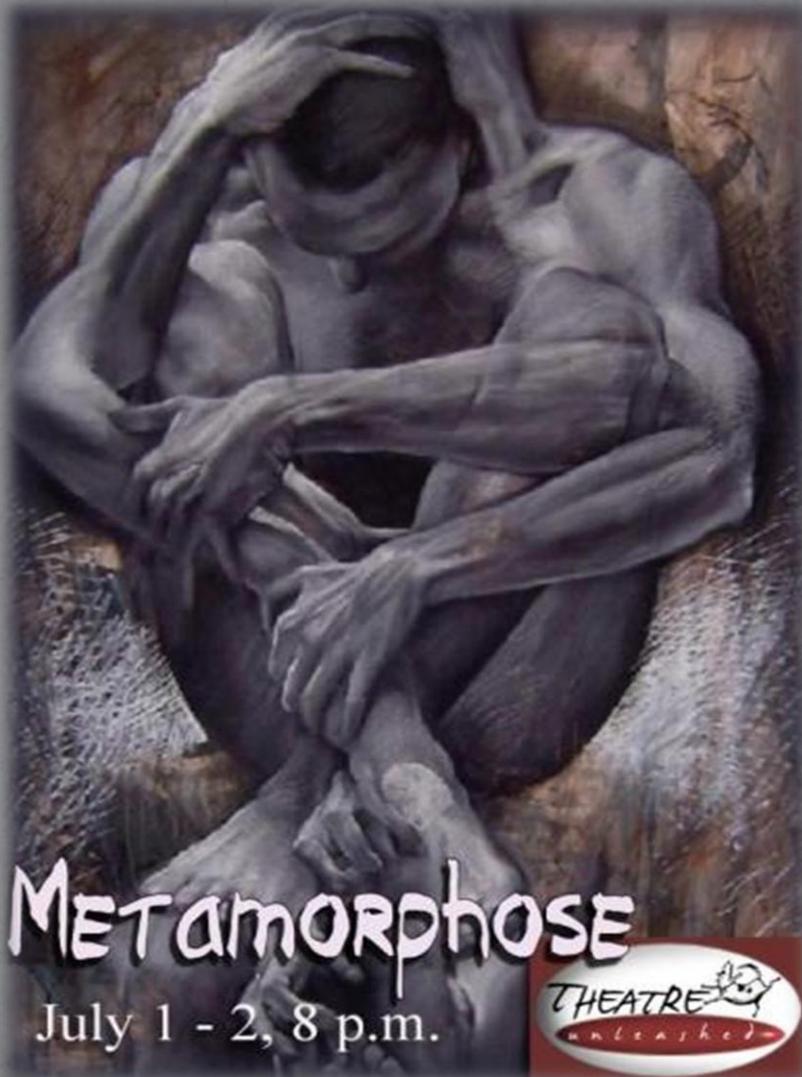
BUY ONLINE @ THE NATIONAL LIBRARY

Click to enter the ABR Short Story Competition worth \$2000!

What are the ABR Favourite Australian Novels?

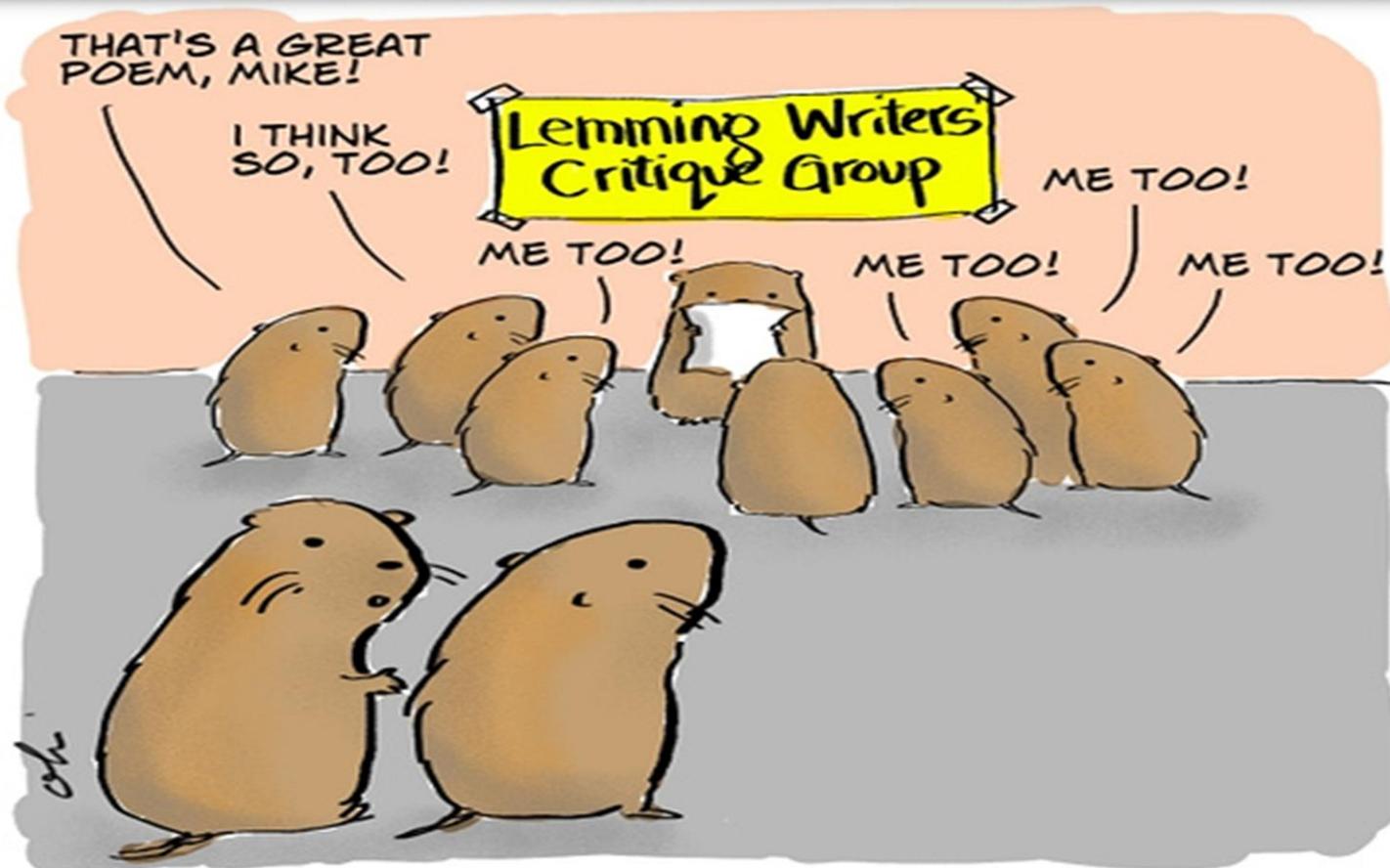
- [2010 QUT Postgraduate Creative Writing Prize](#)
- [2010 Katharine Susannah Prichard Speculative Fiction Award](#)
- [ABR Short Story Competition](#)

Belly of the Whale



- This is when you know you have left the old life behind and are truly committed to the journey, wherever it takes you.

Critical Friends



"You know what they say: when you have lemmings, make lemming aid..."

Copyright©2007 Debbie Ridpath Ohi. INKYGIRL.COM.

Assessment & Editing

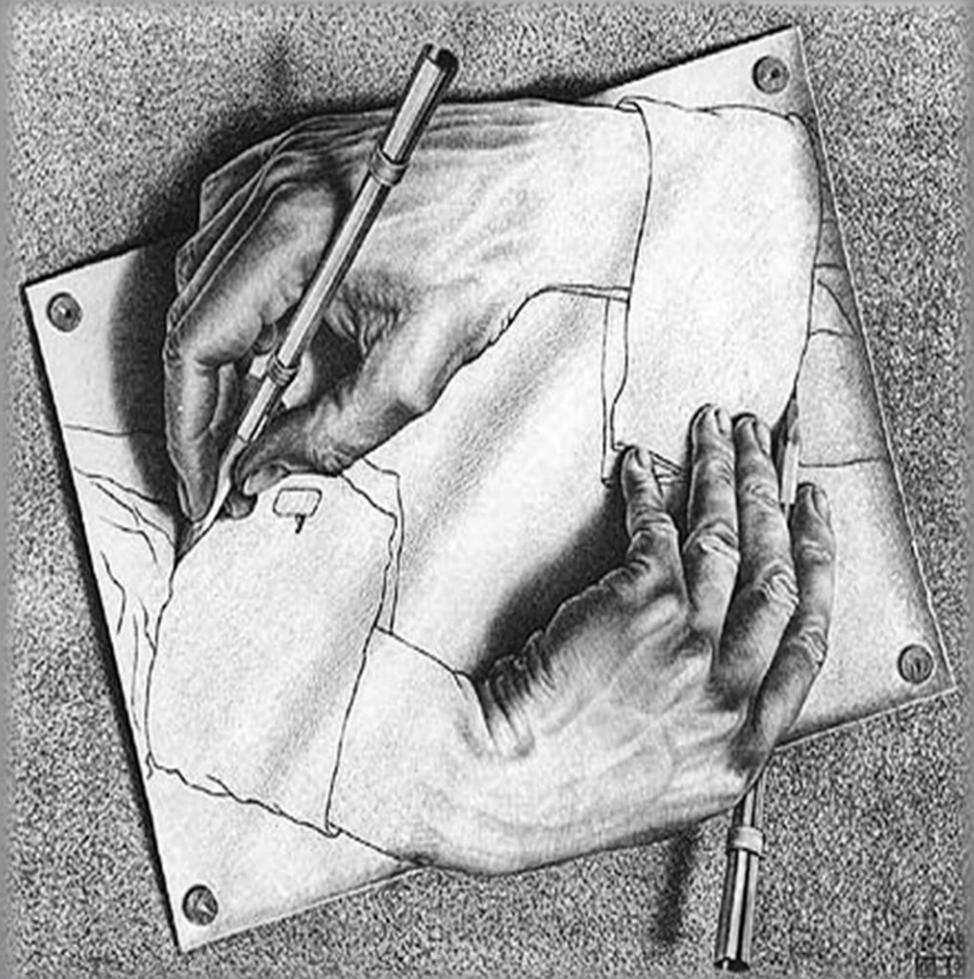


- Bothersome Words
- Dramatically Correct
- Manuscript Appraisal Agency



Writers Workshops

- [Clarion South](#)
- [Varuna House](#)
- [Friday Pitch](#)
- [Hachette & QWC](#)
- [A&U QWC](#)
- [Writers festivals](#)
- [AussieCon4](#)

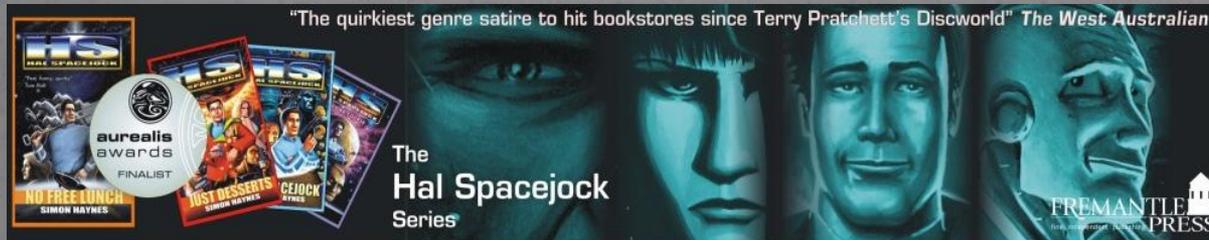


Crossing the Next Threshold

The Road of Trails



Query Letters & Synopsis



[Home](#) [The Author](#) [The Books](#) [Freebies](#) [Articles](#) [Other](#) [Links](#) [Fun](#) [Misc](#)

How to write a query letter

(Not the article you wanted? Check [the index](#) for more)

I'll give a couple of pointers, then list a few links to other sites with similar articles. It's one of those topics where you need input from more than one person.

First, read your target market's guidelines. If they want three chapters and a synopsis, don't post them the whole manuscript. If they want a query letter and nothing else, do what they ask.

Your query letter does three things: First, it proves you've researched your market. (If your query letter to a romance publisher starts by outlining a thriller set on Mars, you just failed the first test.) The part in which you describe your plot should be sharp and snappy - perhaps three sentences tops.

Second, list your prior publishing credits. If you have something to list, just say "My work has been published in ..." (assuming short story credits) or "My last novel was published by...". Don't freak out if you have no credits - better to skip this paragraph than to print a shopping list of ezines, vanity publishers and primary school writing competitions.

Third, ask whether the recipient is interested in seeing your submission. Be sure to mention the SSAE you enclosed for their response.

One thing about query letters - they don't have to be witty, or amusing, or clever, or the most insightful thing ever to cross the recipient's desk. When you're agonising over the thing, remember that you're just writing a letter to ask whether they'll take a look at your manuscript. In fact, [Miss Snark](#) says the following about the ideal query letter:

Just answer these questions:

Who is the protagonist?

What dilemma does he face?

How does it get resolved?

Answer each question in less than 25 words. That's the skeleton for a good query letter. It may not be your finished version, but it will give you the bare structure you need.

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[Literary Agent](#)



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This is the essential sales pitch for your work. Make it a ripper!

[Simon Haynes](#)

Agents and Oracles

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- Stay abreast of the latest publishing industry news
- Gain advanced publishing and marketing knowledge from our Q&A's with publishing experts
- Know how much to charge for freelance gigs with our popular pay rate chart
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WritersMarketplace
The Australian Writer's Marketplace is a must-have for any budding writer.

Tara Wynne, literary agent Curlee Brown
Australia

Meet Your New Best Friend!
Welcome to Australia, the online version of The Australian Writer's Marketplace—every contact you will ever need to succeed in the writing business.

The Australian Writer's Marketplace is a directory for writers. Our database has listings of:

- writing markets
- publishers
- agents
- publishing services
- writers' services (editors, manuscript appraisers, etc)
- industry organisations
- awards, competitions and grants
- courses and events

Australia has two types of membership - subscribers and listees.

Subscribers
Subscribe to view contacts and submission information for over 2,300 publishers, magazines, writing competitions and more. **Access a Subscriber**

Listees
Editors, industry organisations, writing groups and services - list your business online (all listings are free except Writers' Services). **List Now**

Go to Forum
View Blog

Member Login
Username: _____ Password: _____
 Remember Me **Login**

Become a Member
Register to list your business or site for free and subscribe to access resources and insights.
Sign Up

Sign up for our Newsletter
Register to receive our newsletter with the latest news, tips and updates.
Sign Up

Upcoming Competitions/Events

- John Gassner Memorial Storywriting Award**
Prize for full-length, non-musical plays in any style. Previous judges include Doris Morozoff, Joan-Claude van Dalen, Eric Bentley and Conna Cragdon. See guidelines on website.
- Longue Pointe du Caprice Competition**
Different age categories for children and adults. 24 sections including short story, poem, humorous sketch, prose story, short story for children, one-act play, and screenplay report.
- Novel Study Competition**
The NSW literary Awards were established to honour distinguished achievements in fiction by Australians. See...

Who Can You Trust?



Back to the Writers Markets



Searching for Nemo

- [HarperCollins Australia](#)
- [Voyager](#)
- [Hachette](#)
- [Coeur de lion publishing](#)
- [Orbit](#)
- [Angry Robot](#)
- [Penguin Australia](#)
- [Puffin Books YA](#)
- [12th Planet Press](#)
- [Pan Macmillian Aus](#)
- [Simon & Schuster](#)
- [Allen & Unwin - Friday Pitch](#)
- [Tor Books](#)
- [Gryphonwood Press](#)

Be Seen While You Wait

The screenshot shows the Voyager website interface. At the top, there is a navigation menu with links for BOOKS, AUTHORS, COMMUNITY, NEWS & EVENTS, and LINKS. A search bar is located in the top right corner. The main content area is divided into several sections:

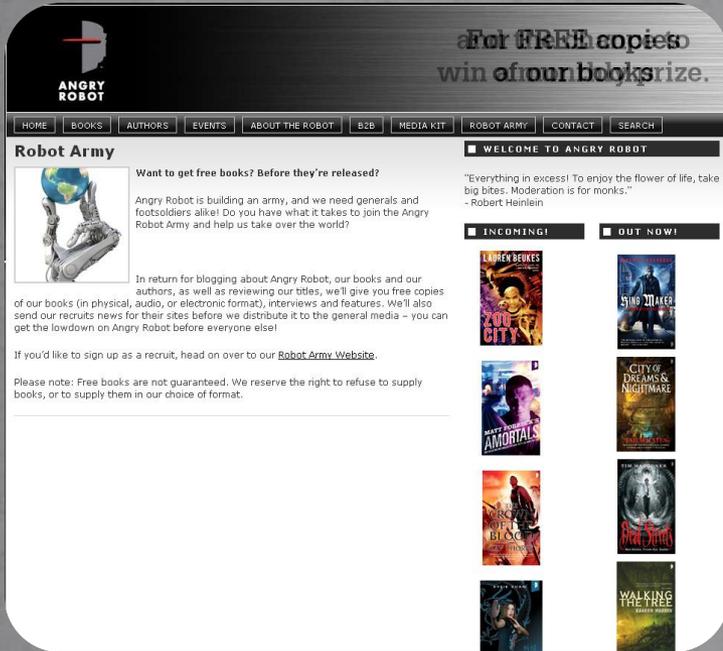
- New in April:** This section features three book covers with brief descriptions and links to more information.
 - Shalador's Lady** by Anne Bishop: "The Black Widows see the warning in their tangled webs of dreams and visions; something is coming that will change the land forever. [more](#)"
 - Pilgrims** by Will Elliott: "Eric Albright is leading a normal life until a small red door appears under a train bridge near his home. Then a ghostly being wakes him in the dead of night, with a message from another world: You are Shadow. [more](#)"
 - The Desert Spear** by Peter V. Brett: "The Deliverer has returned, but who is he? Arlen Bales, formerly of the small hamlet of Tibbet's Brook, learnt harsh lessons about life as he grew up in a world where hungry demons stalk the night and humanity is trapped by its own fear. [more](#)"
- Coming in May & June:** This section features two book covers:
 - SARA DOUGLASS THE INFINITY GATE**
 - GUY GAVRIEL KAY UNDER HEAVEN**
- Member Sign In:** A form for logging in with fields for Alias (containing 'annedusa'), Password (containing six dots), and a 'sign in' button. There is also a link for 'Not a member? Sign Up'.
- captain's log:** A section for signing up for a newsletter. It includes a text box for the E-mail address, a Date of Birth field with dropdown menus for Month and Year, and a 'SUBMIT' button. Below the form are links for 'Put this on your site', 'Terms Of Use', and 'Privacy Policy'.
- In the Community:** A banner for 'The Voyager Blog' with the tagline 'All the latest on the works and whereabouts of Voyager authors and books'. Below the banner, there are links for 'Recent Interviews: Listen to Duncan Lay's radio interview' and 'Interview with Kym Cartwright from Talking Back the Night Part 1'.

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- Leave comments
- Discuss books
- The digital editors will notice your contributions!

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Authonomy



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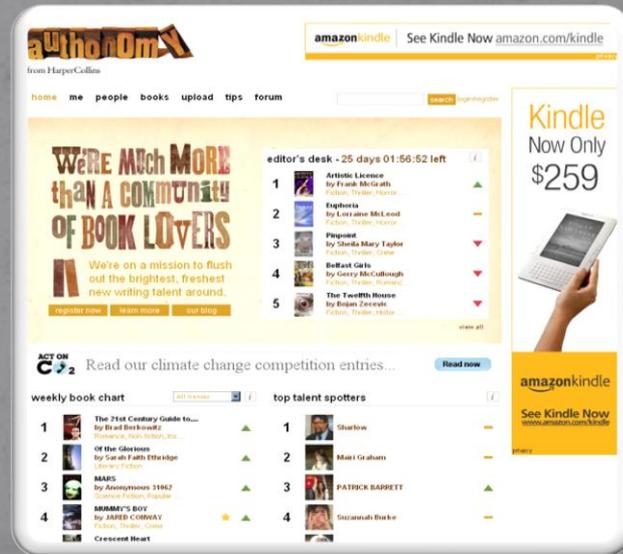
If you'd like to sign up as a recruit, head on over to our [Robot Army Website](#).

Please note: Free books are not guaranteed. We reserve the right to refuse to supply books, or to supply them in our choice of format.

"Everything in excess! To enjoy the flower of life, take big bites. Moderation is for monks."
-Robert Heinlein

INCOMING! OUT NOW!

- LEWIS BEKES
- THE WILLOW
- THE CITY
- CITY OF DREAMS & NIGHTMARE
- THE BLACK
- THE TWELFTH HOUSE
- WALKING THE TREE



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We're on a mission to flush out the brightest, freshest new writing talent around.

editor's desk - 25 days 01:56:52 left

- 1 **Artistic License**
by Frank McCaffery
Fiction, Thriller, Horror
- 2 **Euphoria**
by Louise McLeod
Fiction, Thriller, Horror
- 3 **Propaganda**
by Sheila Mary Taylor
Fiction, Thriller, Crime
- 4 **Beast Girls**
by Gerry McCallough
Fiction, Thriller, Horror
- 5 **The Twelfth House**
by Bojan Zecovic
Fiction, Thriller, Horror

ACT ON CO₂ Read our climate change competition entries... [Read now](#)

weekly book chart

- 1 **The 21st Century Guide to...**
by Ed and Beck Knoff
Nonfiction, Science Fiction, History
- 2 **Of the Glaciers**
by Sarah Faith Edgedge
Literary Fiction
- 3 **BAKES**
by Anonymous 3182
Fiction, Thriller, Pop Culture
- 4 **MIRIAM'S BOY**
by JAMES CORNWY
Fiction, Thriller, Crime
Crescent Heart

top talent spotters

- 1 **Sharrow**
- 2 **Matt Graham**
- 3 **PATRICK BARRETT**
- 4 **Suzannah Burke**

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Getting okay with Rejection



- Becoming breezy with rejection means moving away from defence/despair and towards hope/awareness
- Spartan up!
- Every rejection brings you one step closer to publication!

-Rejection & Underpants
[Voyager Online](#)

Self-publishing: Simon says . . .

You'd have to be mad to self-publish fiction but niche markets are another thing . . . –[Simon Haynes](#)

Vanity Press is not the same as self-publishing. –[Simon Crump](#)

Publishing is a reality with [Lulu](#). Tools and services to make publishing simple and the most options to sell your books.

[IFWG Publishing](#) is a Green POD (Print On Demand) Publisher and a Traditional Offset Publisher

Writing the book and getting it into print are the two easiest steps in the fiction publishing process. – [Morris Rosenthal](#)

[Amazon.com](#)



Not All Those Who Wander are Lost



- The *liminal* region is a virgin forest, an uncharted island or unexplored region of space.
- It is a state of mind where identity is temporarily suspended. Disorientation leads to transformation and self-understanding.

The Ultimate Boon



This is when the hero obtains her goal—the elixir of life, the holy grail, the partnership with a publisher

Refusal to Return



It is not uncommon for heroes to find it difficult to come back to the everyday life after supping with the gods!

Rescue from Without



- Just as the hero may need guides to set out on the quest, often one is needed to bring the hero back home again.

Master of Two Worlds



This is transcendence where the hero becomes comfortable in both worlds, the inner world of creativity and the outer world of everyday life.