

October 2017



Suburban Scribe

Newsletter of the Sacramento Suburban Writers' Club

Deep Point of View

There are different types of point of view in which a book can be written, and in the past few years the most popular one is *Deep Point of View*. What, you might ask, is *Deep Point of View*? It is when the reader "becomes" the character, thinking his or her thoughts and participating in the action along with that character. The reader does not know anything the character does not know, and sees everything only through that person's eyes. This enables the reader to connect emotionally with event, and experience surprises and unexpected twists right along with the protagonist. Cathy will discuss how to accomplish this *Deep Point of View*, thus avoiding unintentionally switching to another character's or the author's viewpoint, which can yank readers out of the story and keeping them from viscerally experiencing the action.

Catherine McGreevy, Author of clean, inspirational fiction



The daughter of a foreign-service officer, Catherine McGreevy (who usually goes by "Cathy") lived abroad in France, Spain, and Morocco, where she attended international schools. During this time, she learned to love reading and wanted to grow up to become an author, just like her favorites, Mary Stewart and Elizabeth Peters.

She majored in Communications (Journalism) with a minor in English at Brigham Young University in Utah. Later she earned her Secondary Education Teaching Credential at Cal State Fullerton. She taught English and Language Arts before moving to Northern California ten years ago, where she joined Sacramento Suburban Writers' Club,

SSWC. "Thanks to my SSWC critique group," Cathy says, "I finally began finishing all those stories I'd started long ago while raising a family!"

A history buff, Cathy is delighted to live in Northern California's gold country. She occasionally dons a bonnet and petticoats to re-enact the past with the Sierra Nevada Mormon Pioneers. She has appeared in Veteran's Day and Fourth of July parades, as well as history days at Sutter's Fort and Coloma.

She published her first two books in 2014, *The Jewelry Case*, a mystery/suspense, and *The Gardener's Tale*, a historical novel. This summer she signed a contract with Cedar Fort Publishing which will release two more of her historical novels in 2018: ***Chance's Bluff*** (in January) and *A Place Called New Hope* (in March).

Follow Cathy on Facebook at www.facebook.com/Catherinemcgreevyauthor, and read her blog at cathymcgreevy.wordpress.com

Can you Empathize?

Mary Lou Anderson shares:

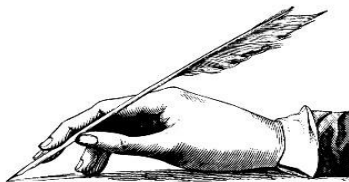
I found this interesting ... taken from 60 Minutes (9/17/17), an interview by Steve Kroft with author David John Moore Cornwell, aka John le Carré, having just published his latest book, A Legacy of Spies. This is an excerpt from that interview and I thought others might find his comments reassuring.

Kroft: "Mostly right now, David Cornwell and John le Carré are recovering from celebrating and lamenting publication of this last novel, strange as that may seem. You said the most depressing time in your life is when you've finished a book."

Cornwell: "Yes,"

Kroft: "Which is what you're going through right now?"

Cornwell: "Which is exactly what I'm going through right now ... thank you for lightening my load. Um, yeh, it's a feeling of



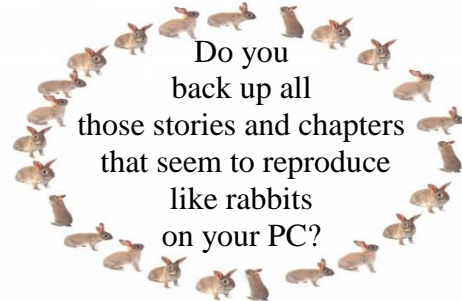
... um ... you've depleted everything you've been working on. It's done. It's out there. And then out of the ashes of the last book, so to speak, comes the phoenix of the new one and life's okay again. But the depression that overtakes me when I've turned in a book, I must confess, is real and deep."

Kroft: "Do you have an idea for the next book?"

Cornwell: "Absolutely. I can't wait to get to it."

A Helpful Hint

by Mort Rumberg



I know...you've been meaning to get to it.

Here's how: Either buy an external hard drive and copy the files to it...or use a cloud service.

Here are a couple of suggestions: Google: Backup files and you'll see over a million hits. You can also pay about \$10 a month for continual backups on the cloud. How? Google: Cloud backup.

Another cloud backup: DropBox. Check it out at [dropbox.com](https://www.dropbox.com).



**Decide on a backup process
and use it.**



October 2017

LOST BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

Karen Sepahmansour

Abandoned children fall prey,
To the shuffle in all of the hustle
Of searching their way
Through an unknown forest.

Abandoned children latch on
To a hope forever gone
In the maze of adulthood early
To a wind and a fury.

Abandoned children find their sun,
In their struggles lonely,
They make decisions fast
For they remember their past.

If they can hold onto a chain
That does not give them much pain,
Their faces are shocked with joy and smiles
As they walk the miles.

Abandoned children find their way in the forest
As the sun's shadow glimmers
And their anxiety simmers
Through all of the snow and cold winters

Abandoned children will not be
If someone sets them free
Give them a map and they will find
A future to take pride and won't hide.

They will come out of the forest
Of trees and bees
They will find their way
Through the muddle of another puddle

Their hearts will be open
More words can be spoken
Of the abandoned child
Who is no longer in the wild.

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**Sacramento Storybook Festival** is a family-oriented event  
featuring favorite storybook characters with **Music, Art, Books,**  
and **Entertainment.**

**Saturday, October 28, 2017 9 AM - 2 PM**

**The Artisan Building | 1901 Del Paso Boulevard | Sacramento, CA 95815**

**Free Admission**

Everyone has their favorite storybook from childhood. Whether its Brothers Grimm, Mother Goose, Aesop's Fables or a contemporary author, you learn and grow from the lessons they often tell. Through the arts, music, entertainment, books, and storytelling, Sacramento

Storybook Festival brings the enjoyment of reading, listening, watching, and participating to a family festival atmosphere.

This event, taking place in Old North Sacramento, coincides with the annual Trick-Or-Treat on the "Boo"levard, as local businesses hand out candies and treats. Costumes are encouraged and will add to the fun of the Storybook Festival.

Del Paso Boulevard Partnership is pleased to host this event with the support of Shade Coffee Company, Real Life Church (Artisan Campus), North Sacramento Chamber of Commerce, and others who graciously have donated their time for youth in the community. You will meet:

- Fenix Drum and Dance Company
- Author Gayle Pitman
- Whimsy Face Painting by Rachele Ahmad

- Author Christine Villa
- Gloria Pearson of *My Booklandia*
- Author JaNay Brown-Wood

For more information contact Larry Groves [larry@delpasoboulevard.com](mailto:larry@delpasoboulevard.com) or 916.923.6200

# CHALLENGE

Terri Benson

As a life-long writer, Terri Benson has one published novel, award winning short stories, and over a hundred articles, many award winning, in local and regional magazines and on-line e-zines. She is a multi-year member of Rocky Mountain Fiction Writers (RMFW). She is also a long-time member of Romance Writers of America. Benson is a regular blogger for RMFW, and frequently pelts them with articles for the newsletter.

Her historical romance, *An Unsinkable Love*, a truly Titanic love story with plenty of suspense, is available from Amazon in both e-book and paperback. More about Terri on her website

<https://www.terribensonwriter.com/>

Terri, in a sort of true confessions style, shares with us her writing practices and pet peeves. She says, "Now, I don't claim these are 'best practices,' and probably not even really good ones, but they're mine."

- I write best under pressure, even if it's made-up pressure, because if I have all the time in the world I can find something else to do in a heartbeat.
- I like to write when I'm alone but always turn on a movie I've seen at least three times for background noise.
- I write in a recliner or on a bed with my laptop, never in a proper chair at a desk.
- I can write eight hours in a stretch if I'm in the zone, which generally results in ordering pizza for dinner to prevent divorce.
- I can tell when I'm not in the zone because I'll have started the laundry, done the dishes, and wandered outside to pull weeds.
- I like to have junk food handy when writing, Dark Chocolate Kisses being my faves, and a gin and tonic is a close second, but not until at least....um, 5 o'clock?
- When it's cold, I have a pair of plush Tigger slippers I wear when I'm writing, and my granddaughter is convinced I have tigers living under my bed in the summer.
- I hate texting because my kids don't want to read more than 3 words from me and think punctuation is a waste of time.

Her challenge, "What are your writing-related practices? What puts you in your writer's groove (or takes you out)?"

Think about it. Share your writing practices with your fellow SSWC members here in the Suburban Scribe Newsletter.

Send them to [newsletter@sactowriters.org](mailto:newsletter@sactowriters.org).

## Be a part of something important Local Writers Wanted

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# SALTY LANGUAGE

Myrl Pardee



I come from a family of careful-speakers. We were always careful to use the right word, and woe be unto anyone using a wrong word. By “wrong word,” I mean any word that was not approved by our Sunday School teachers. Even euphemisms like “darn” and “heck” were frowned upon and might bring punishment.

This all changed as I grew up and my environments changed. I worked in a pre-school for a while and soon realized I had heard it all! Still, those sweet little children would never be condemned to “Heck” for one little four letter word. They weren’t so evil after all.

Several jobs later, I ended up with a group I called The Boys Club—many much younger men, with their free-style vocabulary. It wasn’t long before I was emulating their speech and never got even a raised eyebrow. I used it, not knowing it would come in handy until one summer of cross-country back-packing.

High above the tree line a ridge divides the east and west sides of the Sierra Nevada. As you travel north from Mount Whitney, the ridge drops in elevation, until by Lake Tahoe, Donner Pass is only a few hundred feet higher than the mountain terrain. However, in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, the trail to Forester Pass is, at 13,160 feet of elevation, a real challenge. The challenge includes the thin air, the rugged trail, and the fact that it is the highest pass on the Pacific Crest Trail. It includes switch-backs and places for scrambling over house-size boulders. Usually, as the oldest and slowest member of our back-pack group, I trailed the rest of our troop, but for some reason I was just behind the leader when we approached Forester Pass.

When we began to plan our ascent, we realized that there were places that a human carrying sleeping bags and filled packs just couldn’t fit. Our first job then, was to remove the packs, the cooking pots, the sleeping bags, and all our other earthly belongings. They were attached to the line we had used to hang our food bags away from the bears at a lower elevation. Our leader, who I believe is part mountain goat, hauled them to the crest where he stowed them out of the way.

Then it was my turn. I looked for the first foot step and hand hold above my head. I could pull myself up, but it would be a stretch.

This was going to be a challenge. “Oh, s\*\*\*!” I murmured the obscenity beneath my breath.

The next maneuver involved squatting and walking under a large rock overhang.

“Oh, s\*\*\*!” This time my comment was louder and contained a whine.

Another move, and my body clung to a rock without hand holds, while my feet, toes turned inward and heels hanging over open air, shuffled around a rock that could not be climbed over or wiggled under.

And so it went.

I think it took about six or eight more maneuvers before I reached the top of the pass and enjoyed the view of the glacial lakes hundreds of feet below. Each step was punctuated by my same obscenity.

Below me, the rest of hikers knew that if I could make it, they could. They also knew what to expect.

That evening, sitting around our usual “cocktail hour” (Wyler’s powdered lemon drink plus a few drops of 151 proof rum), my comments during my ascent were analyzed. Since they all had faced the same challenges, they mostly agreed on which comments were “right on” and which were exaggerated. My well-known fear of heights was used to explain those they felt were too extreme.

I sat back, listening, confident in the knowledge that if I could conquer Forester Pass, I could face anything—with the help of a little Salty Language.



October 2017

## OFFICERS

### Elected Officers:

|                |                     |
|----------------|---------------------|
| President      | Wes Turner          |
| Vice President | Cathy McGreevy      |
| Secretary      | Mary Lou Anderson   |
| Treasurer      | Chris & David Stein |

### Chairs:

|                   |                        |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| Achievement       | Mary Lou Anderson      |
| Chairs Chair      | Wes Turner             |
| Coffee/Treats     | [open]                 |
| Conference Coord. | John Powell            |
| Critique Groups   | Brittany Lord          |
| Directory         | Jeannie Turner         |
| Historian         | Pat Biasotti           |
| Librarian         | Ron Smith              |
| Membership        | Jeannie Turner         |
| Newsletter        | [open]                 |
| Nominations       | [open]                 |
| Programs          | Therese Crutcher-Marin |
| Publicity         | [open]                 |
| Raffle            | Mort Rumberg           |
| Scholarship       | David Stein            |
| Speakers          | Tammy Andrews          |
| Sunshine          | Eras Cochran           |
| Website           | Westley Turner         |
| Workshops         | Eva Wise               |
| Youth Mentors     | Tammy, Wes, & Cathy    |

Advertise your writing related services  
in the Suburban Scribe!

\$3 a month (3-month minimum) members  
\$5 a month (3-month minimum) non-members

Send your request to

[newsletter@sactowriters.org](mailto:newsletter@sactowriters.org)

## COPY AND DEADLINES

Submit original written material such as:  
poems, letters, book excerpts, articles, book  
reviews, humor, web sites to visit, general  
information, fun stuff to share—almost anything  
***by the 20th of each month***. Also, share info  
about other meetings, contests, books, book  
signings, classes, etc.

Please keep the submission relatively short and  
submit electronically. There is no pay but byline  
credit is given—and that looks good to agents  
and publishers.

This is one of the many benefits of being a  
member of SSWC.

Send your submissions to

[newsletter@sactowriters.org](mailto:newsletter@sactowriters.org)

MEMBERSHIP is paid on a yearly basis. If joining after March, dues are prorated by quarter.

Individual \$40.00/year

Couple \$55.00/year

Full-Time Student \$30.00/year

Platinum Senior (70+) \$30.00/year

Membership is not required for attending meetings but it does provide benefits including

1) Publication in newsletter

3) Participation in critique groups

2) Participation in club author events

4) Grants for conferences ... & more

More information is on our website: [sactowriters.org](http://sactowriters.org).

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Genres: \_\_\_\_\_ Published? Y/N

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Website/other info/address (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

Your name and email are needed to receive the digital newsletter.