



Suburban Scribe

Newsletter of the Sacramento Suburban Writers' Club

Michele Drier will be speaking on Dialogue, Story Arcs, Plot Points, and Things that make you go “huh?”

You might also learn about

- Dialogue...“What’cha say?” or how your characters relate ideas and thoughts that move the plot along
- Adjectives/adverbs...the no-nos of amateur writers
- Story arcs...by scene, chapter, book, and series
- Plot points...action, action, action
- Things that make you go “huh?”...engaging the reader without confusing him
- Building tension...what actions, crises, challenge your characters
- Pacing...keeping the reader reading



Michele Drier, born in Santa Cruz, is a fifth generation Californian. During her career in journalism—as a reporter and editor at daily newspapers—she won awards for producing investigative series. She is the president of Capitol Crimes, the Sacramento chapter of Sisters in Crime, co-chair for Bouchercon 2020, the world’s oldest and largest convention for mystery writers and fans and the past president of the Guppies, the international online chapter of Sisters in Crime.

She lives in Sacramento with a cat and several untamed creatures under the house, primarily skunks and opossums.

Her Amy Hobbes Newspaper Mysteries are *Edited for Death* (called “Riveting and much recommended” by the Midwest Book Review), *Labeled for Death* and *Delta for Death*. A stand-alone, *Ashes of Memories*, was published May 2017.

Her paranormal romance series, *SNAP: The Kandeskyy Vampire Chronicles*, was named the best paranormal vampire series of 2014 by PRG. The series is *SNAP: The World Unfolds*, *SNAP: New Talent*, *Plague: A Love Story*, *Danube: A Tale of Murder*, *SNAP: Love for Blood*, *SNAP: Happily Ever After?* *SNAP: White Nights*, *SNAP: All That Jazz*, *SNAP: I, Vampire*.

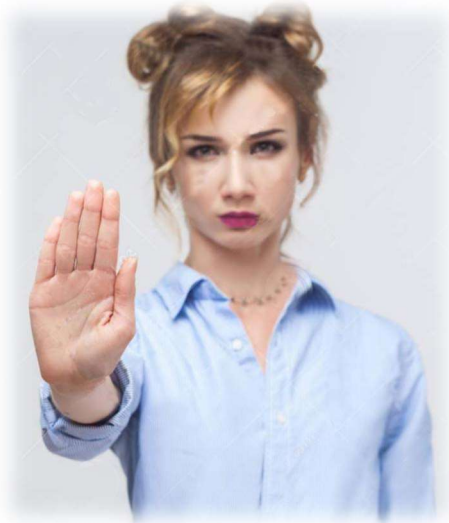
Visit her webpage, www.MicheleDrier.com
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All of the meetings of the Sacramento Suburban Writers’ Club are held on the 2nd Monday of each month,
7 - 9 p.m.at the Crossroads Community Fellowship Church’s meeting hall,
5501 Dewey Drive, Carmichael (just north of the Madison/Dewey intersection)

All writers are encouraged to attend. Membership is not mandatory but brings privileges.

Okay, It's Another Rant

Mary Lou Anderson



Recently, newscasters reported that research showed that those who swore were mentally healthier than those who don't. They said that swearing can release stress.

However, others will tell you that it can create as much, or more, stress in the listener as swear words spew from the speaker.

I think there's more to it. This is my "take."

- Constant swearing demonstrates a limited vocabulary. There's no need to retain descriptive words in your brain if you can fill in with the "F" word. The Smurfs, intended for children, describe everything as "Smurfy." Today, adults with small vocabularies describe everything as "F ing." Adjectives. Adverbs. F... 'n F'ingly.

- Persistent swearing is a lazy person's habit and shows a lack of imagination - fill in voids with a four-letter word. Why worry about selecting the right word when you can just gush a stream of swear words? - Of course, everyone will understand what you mean. Of course they will.
- Some listeners will not receive the intended content because they will respond emotionally (negatively) to a message that is littered with what they consider foul language.
- Those who choose to swear, and it is a choice, must have done the study and arrived at their conclusions (bias, anyone?) to justify to others (including their parents?) that using those words is actually healthy.
- Those attempting to justify the study don't have faith in themselves to believe they can communicate well without peppering in attention-getting words.
- Will these people be happy when a teacher reprimands their child for swearing in class?

Swear words lose their impact if overused, but they certainly have their place. Save the strongest words for when you slam your thumb with a hammer, for when your progeny break your favorite lamp, for when your great book is rejected up by a publisher.

I think those "researchers" are saying that it's healthy to swear so they, themselves, can continue to swear, continue to be lazy, and continue to be unimaginative

Hey, what's so bad with lowering the expectations of our fellow human beings, anyway?

Our Cathy Makes the Big Time!

Cathy McGreevy

While visiting family in Utah I had the thrill of seeing my first two novels in bookstores: *Chance's Bluff* and the just-released *A Place Called New Hope*. It was my first time seeing my books on the shelf beside my favorite writers. Of course I took lots of photographs in Desert Book and Seagull Book stores to document the occasion.

Soon after, I was lucky enough to attend the Left Coast Crime mystery writers' convention in Reno, where my friend and fellow-author Michele Drier, president of the Sacramento chapter of Sisters in Crime, spoke on one of the panels.

The discussions ranged from writing political thrillers to cozy mysteries to writing in several genres. Best of all, I came home with lots of books for my ever-growing to-read pile!

I may have said this before, and will probably say it again, but one of the greatest pleasures of writing is not just putting down stories on the page, which I love. It is getting to know fellow writers, who, it turns out, are some of the nicest, most generous people on earth. Whether household names or still developing their skills, they are witty, warm, and, surprisingly not at all competitive. When one succeeds, everyone else is thrilled for him or her.

In a way, seems counter-intuitive because many writers, including me, are naturally introverts. In fact, part of what attracted me to being an author was the idea that I could stay at home and play with my imaginary friends without having to go out and make conversation with real people, a thought that used to strike terror into my heart.

So why is it so easy to mingle with other writers?

It must be that we face similar struggles and challenges and share some of the same interests, twisted or otherwise. A writer of cozy mysteries told me that the readers of these sweet stories are surprisingly blood-thirsty, which I suppose is true of the writers as well! Historical writers share fascinating and amazingly specific details of life in the past, that make me try to figure out how I can include them in my stories.

In spite of all the fun, I confess to being a tiny bit relieved when it was time to go home and return to my laptop and plotting—and resting up for the next writers' convention.



A Helpful Hint

by Mort Rumberg



No Matter How Common a Comma Can Be, USE IT RIGHT!

The proper use of commas is indeed a challenge. Below are links to Purdue OWL's charts of Quick Comma Rules and their Extended Rules. Then, select from the selections on the left for many other grammatical rules.

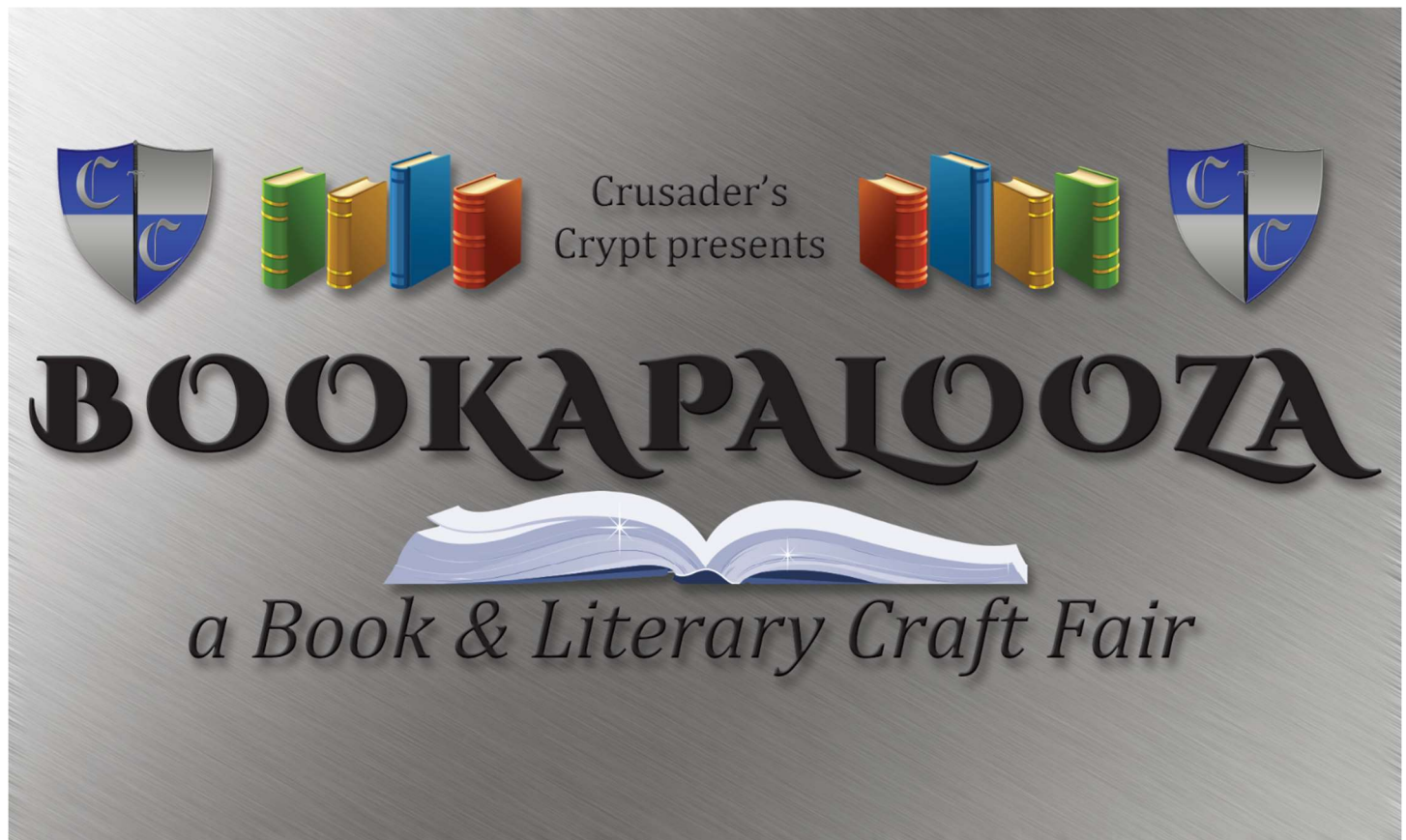
Purdue OWL's Quick Comma Rules

<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/607/01/>

Purdue OWL's Extended Comma Rules

<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/607/02/>

This is your submission



You are invited

Bookapalooza is the largest Book and Literary Craft Fair in Sacramento, where there is something for everyone who lives, works, and thrives in the Literary Realm!

For Authors...

Connect with readers by selling and autographing your creations.

For Literary Crafters...

Sell your creations to more customers and build upon your consumer base. If you create anything literary related, we want you as well! Bookcases, bookmarks, bookends... get the idea?

This massive event will be held Saturday and Sunday, June 23-24.

You can sign up to be a part of it at Crusaderscrypt.Com/Bookapalooza/Registration

Don't miss out on this event, or you will have to wait another year to participate. Register now! All proceeds will benefit the animals of the Sacramento SPCA.

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

Send your request to newsletter@sactowriters.org



Keep

Writing!

COPY AND DEADLINES

Please 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

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.

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