

The Writers Network News: May 2024

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The Writers Network News

Editor: Bobbie Christmas

Sponsor: Zebra Communications

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Founded in 1992

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Notes

Some links in this newsletter are created through TinyUrl.com, which converts long links into shorter ones.

Our format doesn't support italics, so italics are indicated with underlines before and after words.  
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Writer's Quote of the Month

"A person is a success if he gets up in the morning and gets to bed at night and in between does what he wants to do." - Bob Dylan (nee Robert Zimmerman)

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Bob Dylan is an American singer-songwriter. Often considered to be one of the greatest songwriters in history, Dylan has been a major figure in popular culture over his sixty-year career. (Wikipedia)  
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If Your Email Address Changes, You Will Be Unsubscribed

We cannot add you or change your address because of our double-opt-in, no-spam policy. If our email to you bounces, our system automatically unsubscribes you. To ensure you never miss an issue of "The Writers Network News," you must resubscribe with your new address. Please go to <https://www.zebraeditor.com/> and sign up with your new address, and be sure to do it before you stop using your old address.
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One: From the Editor's Desk: No Joke

Dear Fellow Writers:

On April 2 I received an long urgent text from a relative with the following message: "Oh, Bobbie. The worst thing has happened. Yesterday my cat got out, and despite our best efforts, [my partner] and I could not find him. Finally we looked in what we call the "goose condo," which is in the middle of a bunch of rushes across the street from our front door and saw her. (The goose condo is where our Canada goose incubates her eggs year after year.)"

To shorten things and not go into gory details, the long text message went into great details to say that the cat had broken the goose's neck and wouldn't let my relative come close to take the cat home. The message indicated that my relative was horrified and didn't know what to do, so she asked her daughter, and her daughter suggested she contact me, because I'm good with animals. The message ended with, "We hope you can give us some advice. We're sick over this."

Because I love animals, I too became sick over the situation, but my son is a veterinarian and seemed the better person to give advice on cat behavior, so I told her to contact him. I gave her his phone number, but then I thought to alert him to the issue and sent him a text message about the problem. He texted back that he'd rather discuss the issue by email rather than by phone or text, so I then texted my relative again to explain my son's preference. All this back-and-forth went on for quite a few minutes, while I was sick over what my relative's cat had done and that she couldn't get the cat to come home.

My relative then sent me a text message that said she had sent the message to my son by email, and she added, "But between you and me and the kitchen sink, that was a belated April Fool's joke."



### Three: Subjects of interest to writers

#### Members Write

Regarding my letter about being a survivor of colorectal cancer, Meredith Rutter wrote, "Thank you for the article, Bobbie. I do think it will encourage many to get over any squeamishness and get tested. You've done a true good deed."

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Dr. Randy Wysong sent best wishes along with his opinion and related websites, saying, "I'm sorry to hear about what you've endured. Given that modern medicine is the number-one killer, you're fortunate to have survived the treatments." He noted, "Yes, colonoscopies are a medical mantra, but the procedure is not without risks," according to an article in The New England Journal of Medicine. He added, "Please encourage your readers to think prevention rather than reliance on a money-driven medical system that's fraught with dangers" and "People need to return to nature in lifestyle, nutrition, exercise, sunlight, loving relationships, etc. A visit to the doctor should be the last resort."

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Mary Ellen Gavin wrote, "You have my heart. Reading what you have gone through brought tears to my eyes." She added, "I was blessed to be prodded to do all of those horrific tests, as that horror ran in my father's family."

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My good friend Vicki Flier Hudson wrote, "This is an incredibly powerful and brave newsletter. You will save lives. Even I didn't know the extent of what you went through. You are incredibly strong, and it's unfair that you had to endure all of that." She added that she called her medical provider that day to schedule colonoscopies for herself and her husband.

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Sandra Beckwith gave me this encouragement: "I'm so sorry to hear about your struggles! I'm sure that sharing your story and experience here and elsewhere will help others. Thank you for being brave enough to do that."

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Marlene Clark congratulated me on being in remission and for summoning the courage to speak publicly about my ordeal. She added, "Your story is, unfortunately, familiar: delaying/ignoring preventive tests can result in a poor outcome."

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This note came from Teresa Stewart: "Thanks for having the courage to share your story, Bobbie. I've been to a few of the BookLogix workshops and webinars and have been an avid fan of your helpful ezine tips for years. I wondered how you have been. I'm keeping you in my prayers and hope that you will have continued healing and joy in your life."

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Ann Favreau shared, "I am a colorectal cancer survivor since 1988, had an ostomy, and am still preaching the prevention message. I did write my story in the book It's Okay to Have an Ostomy and my cancer story in Cancer to Caring. They are available on Amazon. I provided support for ostomates on the local, regional, national, and international levels. I still facilitate a local support group. I empathize with your pain from radiation." She finished with, "Now I am experiencing another new normal. My husband has dementia, and I have just published The Dementia Spiral, a collection of twenty-four poems that deal with the condition and its impact on him and me as the caregiver. I sent a copy to a friend who sent me a lovely note but told me that her brother just died of colon cancer. He refused to have colonoscopies and died ten days after diagnosis. Bobbie, I wish you the best and encourage you to continue to speak out."

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"I am so sorry to learn you had to go through such a long ordeal to get cancer-free," Jill Jennings, wrote. "I think, however, that many people put off a colonoscopy because they are afraid they will wake up and it will hurt."

She adds, "The doctor needs to get the anesthesiologist to ask you what kind of anesthetic works for you."

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Helena Leslie sent a note that said, "Thank you for sharing your cancer experience, I'm sure it was helpful to your readers. Many blessings to you, now and forever!"

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On a change of subjects, fellow editor Ellen Holder commented, "I am happy to report that the book you recommended in December (Think and Grow Rich) is so good, I bought a second copy. I gave the first one to my husband for Christmas, which he has read from cover to cover three times. I even understand the Bible better when I read Napoleon Hill. The title might make one think the book is about being rich and greedy, but it's the most honest book I've ever read. It helps me every day. Thank you so much."

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Empish J. Thomas contacted me to say, "I am behind in reading your newsletter, so came across your October issue where you recommended seeing the movie The Wife. Yes, I agree, I saw it at the movie theater and thought it was excellent. So much so that I read the book too. If I remember correctly the ending is a little different but otherwise a great read."

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Patricia Pimental wrote to say this: I've written a short story (5,120 words) that I would love to have published. I'm not sure of the best approach. Payment is not important (although would be wonderful!); it is the inspirational message I wish to share. Do you have any suggestions for me? I know you always have your finger on the publication pulse.

I responded, "I don't know of one firsthand, but I Googled 'markets for short stories' and saw quite a few websites that list markets for short stories. Be sure to scroll past all the sponsored entries to get down to the real ones."

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Upcoming Virtual Seminars with Bobbie Christmas

May 13: "Rev Up Your Writing"

Are you ready to make your writing sparkle, sizzle, and pop? Take my one-hour seminar "Rev Up Your Writing" on Zoom May 13. Contact Kathy Hamby-Swink for more details. feathertales@bellsouth.net

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Colorful Crow Writing Community

## June 20: "Crafting Compelling Memoirs"

Please join us on June 20 at 6 p.m. for an engaging workshop led by Bobbie Christmas titled "Crafting Compelling Memoirs." Bobbie Christmas, renowned as The Book Doctor and editor at Zebra Communications, will share invaluable insights on the art of creating memoirs that captivate audiences. Don't miss this opportunity to delve into the secrets of crafting unforgettable personal narratives. Here's the Zoom link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88296859190?pwd=2z30eYmkEbE5Mra2HXwwUmkl6TfbOK.1>

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Do You Know What You Don't Know?

Which word is correct? When is it one word or two words? When should it be hyphenated? You're not the only person confused, but a professional editor knows the answer.

Where do the commas go? What is the prudent and correct use of exclamation marks? You don't know what you don't know, and you may think you're right when you're wrong. Every book deserves a professional editor.

Zebra Communications offers three levels of service, two of which include developmental editing and an extensive report filled with advice, explanations, and suggestions on how to improve the manuscript's marketability. See our services, pricing, reviews, and more at <https://www.zebraeditor.com/>. Zebra Communications: Excellent Editing for Maximum Marketability

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Writers Conference in Cartersville, Georgia

The Cartersville Area Writers Group announces its second annual CAW Conference on May 18 at the Cartersville, Georgia, Chamber of Commerce. Speakers include Amber Nagle, Ben Meeks, Michael Webb, Richard Fierce, and MC Terri Cox. Topics include How to Successfully Launch Your First Book, In-Person Sales, Launching Your Book with Kickstarter, and more.

For more information and to register see <https://cartersvilleareawritersgroup.com/>.

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Manuslips and Missed Opportunities for Improvement

Can you tell what can be improved in the following sentence?

Out came multiple boxes of brand-new roller skates with the father saying find a size that works for you.

Answer

First, the sentence is in passive voice ("out came" instead of showing who did the action). Next the father came out of the multiple boxes, as written, because of the missing modifier. I'd address that issue and also use dialogue to show, rather than tell what the father said. Here's my suggested recast. How would you recast it?

The father pulled out multiple boxes of brand-new roller skates and said, "Find a size that fits you."

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Manuslip: a slip in grammar, punctuation, or other error in a manuscript that often results in humor; a manuscript blooper

Etymology

Coined by Bobbie Christmas (1944 -) in Write In Style: How to Use Your Computer to Improve Your Writing (2004, 2015).

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Be My Friend on Facebook

Follow my adventures, opinions, and observations: <http://www.facebook.com/bobbie.christmas>

Follow Zebra Communications on Facebook for news for writers, writing-related cartoons, immediate updates, and other good stuff. <https://tinyurl.com/ydyn3pcu>.

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CMOS Online Q&A

This month someone posed the following question to The Chicago Manual of Style Online:

Q: Merriam-Webster lists "fact-check" as a verb (with a hyphen). But what about when it's used as a noun—as in, "Oh no, not another fact check!" My guess is that it's not hyphenated, but I would like to see an entry on this.

To get the answer to this question and many more based on Chicago style, go to <http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/qanda/latest.html>.

The Chicago Manual of Style sets the standard in book publishing for issues such as punctuation, capitalization, and much more. If you write fiction or nonfiction books, you will want to know about Chicago style or be sure to use a professional book editor intimately familiar with Chicago style.

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Write Tight: Learn What To Look For, How to Look for It, and What to Delete

In five-time award-winning Write In Style you'll learn how to find and delete or rewrite words, sentences, and phrases that weaken your writing.

Write In Style uses humor and expertise to show writers how to tighten and strengthen their writing and create a fresh voice.

Write In Style is also available as an e-book or printed through the following source, although you may pay for shipping for the printed book: <https://tinyurl.com/y8fp5nym>.

Want to buy the book in Kobo through Rakuten? Easy. Go to <https://www.kobo.com/us/en/ebook/write-in-style-3>

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Four: Contests, Agents, and Markets

Distiller Magazine

Distiller Magazine covers the art, science, and business of craft distillation. The print magazine publishes quarterly, three editorial issues –summer, fall, and winter, and the annual Distillers’ Resource Directory. Online publishing operates year-round.

The editorial staff welcome queries for articles for publication in our print magazine and/or online platform.

Most Distiller features are contributed by freelancers. Print features are generally assigned at 1,200-2,000 words.

Online stories are generally single-topic, narrow-focus, blog-style articles between 300 and 500 words.

Please email pitches to editor@distilling.com, and include the phrase “Distiller Magazine Pitch” in your subject line. Please also include links to a recent writing sample or two and a brief biography.

We pay a base rate of \$0.50/word, or \$0.75/word if writers contribute photography that is published with the story (see photography requirements).

We pay \$100 per online story, plus \$25 per original image (up to 2).

For subjects covered and other details, see <https://distilling.com/distiller-editorial-style-guide/>

~~~~~ Jerry Jazz Musician Short Fiction Contest

Three times a year Jerry Jazz Musician awards a writer who submits, in our opinion, the best original, previously unpublished work of short fiction.

The Jerry Jazz Musician reader has interests in music, social history, literature, politics, art, film and theater, particularly that of the counter-culture of mid-twentieth century America. Our newsletter subscribers include publishers, artists, musicians, and fellow writers. While your writing should appeal to a reader with these interests and in these creative professions, all story themes are considered.

Winning stories are announced on the home page of Jerry Jazz Musician, and it will reside on the website permanently. Jerry Jazz Musician also nominates writers for the Pushcart Prize. In addition to publishing the winning story, with the consent of the author, we frequently publish short-listed stories.

No entry fee is required. One story entry only. Simultaneous submissions are accepted.

The contest is open to entrants from anywhere in the world (English language only please)

A prize of \$150 will be awarded for the winning story.

In addition to the story being published on Jerry Jazz Musician, the author’s acceptance of the prize money gives Jerry Jazz Musician the right to include the story in an anthology that could appear in book or magazine form. All other ownership rights are retained by the author. If the story appears subsequently in other publications, we ask authors to note that the story was originally published on Jerry Jazz Musician.

Submission deadline for the next contest—our 66th—is May 31, 2024. The publishing date will be on or about August 10, 2024. Ideally stories will not exceed 3,000 words, but stories of up to 4,000 words are considered.

Submit your story by May 31, 2024, via Word (preferred) or PDF attachment to jerryjazzmusician@gmail.com and be sure to include your name, address, and phone number with your submission, as well as a brief 50-100-word story synopsis. Please include “Short Fiction Contest Submission” in the subject heading of the email. We accept human-generated entries only.

<https://www.jerryjazzmusician.com/short-fiction-contest-details/>

~~~~~ Chronicle Books Accepts Book Proposals

No agent needed!

Chronicle Books publishes a wide range of nonfiction books on our adult trade list, in categories such as cooking, fine art, design, photography, pop culture, fashion, beauty, home décor, personal relationships, and more. We also publish innovative formats, such as interactive journals, decks, games, stationery, and much, much more. Please note: We do not acquire adult fiction.

Please make sure to familiarize yourself with our publishing before you pitch!

We accept submissions by email only, which can be sent to submissions@chroniclebooks.com. Please attach your proposal to your email as a single Word file or PDF, and keep the file under 5MB or less to ensure delivery.

Please allow six months for the editors to review a proposal. Given the volume of proposals we receive, we cannot ensure that we will be able to personally respond to each submission unless we are interested in pursuing the project. To see what to include in your proposal see <https://www.chroniclebooks.com/pages/submissions>

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Do YOU have news for The Writers Network News? Send it in the body of an email to Bobbie@zebraeditor.com or bzebra@aol.com. Deadline: 18th of each month.

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Send a copy of this newsletter to all your writing friends. Tell them to join The Writers Network F-R-E-E by visiting <https://www.zebraeditor.com/> and signing up for The Writers Network News.

If someone forwarded this newsletter to you, please sign up to get your own subscription. Simply go to <https://www.zebraeditor.com/> to subscribe to The Writers Network News. My promise: I will never share your address or send out spam.

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The Writers Network News: a newsletter for writers everywhere. No Rules; Just Write!

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