



The Quill

The Newsletter of the League of Utah Writers
June, 2018



President's message

League of Utah Writers,

The ending is just as important if not more so than the beginning. A great opening can really draw people in and get them engaged with great excitement. The ending gets people talking and is what gets people to recommend. The right question is how do you know you are working on a good ending, a great ending, or a poor ending. There are three ways to head into an ending that will help you level up.

1. Come up with an amazing ending before you start – Those who plot might have this on their board, but most pantsers utilize this tool more often than not. When you develop an amazing ending you have a clear vision into where you are going and where everything else is going right from the start. These tend to be action resolutions, or extensive plot twists. These tend to be very clever and catchy endings.
2. Ending with a reflection – The classic reflection ending allows everyone the chance to look back and review everything that was learned, and think about some things you haven't learned yet. This is very common with plotters, and less common with the messier pantsers. However, this is a very solid ending since it ensures everyone is on the same page at the end. This is also used as a full circle ending, where you end where you start. These are very solid endings, and can be great endings.
3. The ending that make the most sense – This seems obvious, but it isn't fully flushed out from the beginning but it comes from the information you wrote along the path. This is typically a tool utilized by pantsers, and rarely by plotters. This is typically a very quick ending with little explanation, these are typically disappointing endings.

With the ending being so crucial to the success, I highly recommend taking a really hard look at how you are doing it now, and if you can develop your style to improve it.

Since we are on the topic of endings, this will be the last time I address you as the President of the League of Utah Writers. I am so grateful for the opportunity that I have had to serve the amazing people of the League and the writing community. I won't be disappearing from the League, but moving into the past president roll. I am so very excited for the future of the League and for the amazing things that are on the horizon for the League.

I hope you will join us for a historic Quills Conference this year.

Thank you for everything.

Your Humble Servant,

Jared Quan



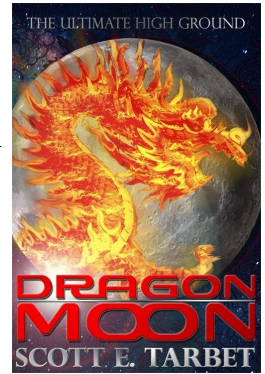
Quill Winner Highlights

Scott E. Tarbet, winner of the Gold Quill in Speculative Fiction

for *Dragon Moon*

The Moon is the Ultimate High Ground

A new space race explodes into violence when China quietly sets its sights on the Moon. Now, an unlikely team of US Navy SEALs, Russian Spetsnaz, and a Chinese-American double agent have one chance to stop the activation of China's powerful new weapon before all hope is lost. The cost of failure: worldwide Chinese empire.



Scott E. Tarbet writes enthusiastically in several genres, sings opera, loves Steampunk waltzes, slow-smokes thousands of pounds of Texas-style barbeque every summer, and was married in full Elizabethan regalia. An avid skier, hiker, golfer, and tandem kayaker, he makes his home in the mountains of Utah.

Question: What helps when you're having a bad writing day?

Tarbet: Changing projects. Yes, seriously. For every writing session I always have at least three WIPs open on the computer. If one of them stalls (or *I* do), I shift gears to something fresh. Especially when I am shooting for a more-than-average production day, it will be a few thousand words each in several different WIPs.

Candace J. Thomas, winner of the Silver Quill in Speculative Fiction

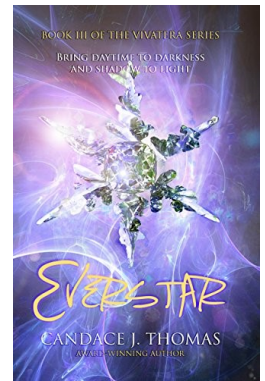
for *Everstar*

Bound by the same magic which poisoned all three, rent asunder by their burdens of guilt and obligation, duty compels Naomi, Taren, and Reynolds to Southwick to fulfill an ancient prophecy. However, the love and loss each have suffered make their task anything but simple.

Sharrod is gathering the six elemental stones, the gate to the Underworld will open, and the UnderGod Shon will destroy the world of the living should he escape. Only Naomi's magic is strong enough to prevent it. As she resigns herself to the will of the Vivatera and its demand of her life, Taren vows to prevent that sacrifice at any cost. But Reynolds sees beyond the needs of his own heart. Can he decipher the prophecy before it's too late? For only he holds the key to the mystery of the Everstar and Naomi's survival.

Question: What advice would you give to writers who are just starting out?

Thomas: New writers have such a freshness to them. There is a beautiful innocence that is sadly lost after being battered around by the industry. I want new writers to not get lost in the daunting idea of being an author, truth is, if you want it badly enough, you can do it. My advice - Don't rush it. Take your time with your manuscript. Being in the industry takes a lot of your personal



time, sacrifices on your work and family life, and it puts you in a spotlight that not everyone knows how to deal with. Make friends in the industry, people that understand the pressure, the deadlines, the rejection, and difficulty that comes with the ups and downs of being an author. Don't rush your novel. Even though it may be complete, make sure you are mentally prepared to handle those rejects. Sculpt your novel into something you want to stand behind and defend. Others will have opinions on how and where it needs to go, stand with integrity behind your words. Your time will come.

LEAGUE OF UTAH WRITERS



Looking for a writing buddy?
Join the League!
leagueofutahwriters.org



August 24-25

**University Park Marriot
Salt Lake City**



Maria V. Snyder
Author
POISON STUDY



Tim Dorsey
Author
Serge Storms Series



Angie Hodapp
Agent
Nelson Literary



Schedule of events has been finalized and member discounts are available for our crown event where the annual Diamond Quill and Creative Writing Contest awards are announced. As a member of the League, you are entitled to a 10% discount on registration fees. Use the discount code **QUILLS18TEN** when selecting registration options to redeem this member benefit.

In addition to 50+ hours of presentations and panels, there will be options for smaller groups and more direct interaction with our special guests in the form of kaffeeklatsch gatherings and individual critique of first pages with editors and agents at no extra charge. Pitches will be available to purchase once the schedule is finalized as well.

A single-day option or prequel add-on to the conference has been added for Thursday which includes a morning session and an afternoon session with three choices of intensive three-hour workshops: Fantastic Fight Scenes with Maria V Snyder, First Pages that Lead to Yes with Angie Hodapp, The Art of Querying with Johnny Worthen, Dynamic Story Creation: Structure, Theme, Theory of Story with Maxwell Alexander Drake, The Allegory in Your Subtext with Callie Stoker, and MFA in Half a Day with Angie Hodapp.

Thursday night the conference will un-officially kick off with a reception (separate ticket) where attendees can mingle with special guests and fellow attendees in a relaxed social atmosphere. Ticket cost includes hors d'oeuvres with a cash bar available.

Other confirmed presenters include: Tim Dorsey (Keynote), Kate Jones (Omnium Gatherum), James Hunter, Chelsey Emmelhainz (Crooked Lane Books), Rhonda Penders (The Wild Rose Press), Claire Friedman (Inkwell Management), Aaron Michael Ritchie, Lisa Mangum, Lance Larsen, Charlie Holmberg, Courtney Alameda, J.H. Moncrieff, Megan Ashley, Blake Casselman, Bryan Young, Jennifer Jenkins, Rachael Bush, Joseph Batzel, Spanky Ward and Alex Harrow. This is not a complete list and other guests will be announced once confirmed.

Conference rates are available to book with the venue hotel – University Park Marriott – until August. Room rates include breakfast each morning. This year's conference includes most meals in the cost of registration.

Details and future updates can be found on our website <https://www.leagueofutahwriters.com/quills-conference-2018> including bios on presenters and the high-level schedule of events. We hope you join us! Capacity is limited to 300.



The League of Utah Writers and Utah State University English Department are proud to present the 2018 Summer Writing Symposium, featuring renowned authors, university writing educators, and presenters from the League of Utah Writers. This is a full day of creative writing classes and presentations for just **\$30**. Intensive critique sessions and lunch are also included! Visit the LUW website to register. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2018-summer-writers-symposium-registration-45128945892>

**CONTINUING EDUCATION &
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

Johnny Worthen is teaching a couple of creative writing courses this summer with the University of Utah Lifelong Learning center. Open to all, space is limited.

Let's Choose a Writer of the Year!

It's That Time of Year Again
By Carolyn Campbell

I'll never forget that night.

It was the final evening of an amazing League Roundup conference. I was relaxing over a delicious banquet dinner, recalling great speakers, fun visits with friends and valuable insights that taught me more about how to be a writer.

Someone began reading the description of the writer who was to be awarded the Writer of The Year. Suddenly, I realized that the description was starting to sound a little bit like me. I listened closer. The description continued to sound like me. Everything the speaker said was something that applied to me. I couldn't believe it. At the end of the narrative, the speaker called my name. I was the new Writer of The Year.



I still recall the chills that I felt. I will always remember the thrill that this honor brought me. Being Writer of the Year is a valuable credential that you never lose. It looks great on a resume. It's a fun fact to tell people. Lots of people notice the plaque above your desk. Your name is always on the League website and in the League directory. It's an accomplishment that pays tribute to your success.

Now it's time for all of us League members choose a new Writer of the Year. The Writer of the Year award celebrates the success of the member who has had the best year as a writer.

If you know someone whose book/ books have really taken off, or someone who has landed a prestigious writing job or teaching position, please send your nomination to carolync@sisna.com for consideration. Please include any and all writing credits.

Nominations must be received by July 31. Writer of the Year nominations are open to all members of the League. Self nominations will also be accepted. Nominees must be members in good standing at the time of the nomination.

Chapter Chatter

If you have an upcoming or recent release, or other writing-related news, please let your chapter President know so that they can forward the info for the newsletter. We all want to hear about it!

See the LUW [website](#) for more information on chapter meetings, and for the email address to send your chapter your writing news, so it can be shared with the League.

⇒ Cache Chapter Chatter

The Quills Contest deadline and preparing for the upcoming Summer Writers Symposium have kept the Cache Valley Chapter very busy for the past few months, but lots of our members have nevertheless made us proud with their successes.

Amanda Luzzader made it to number one on the Amazon best-seller list with her story “What’s Been Keeping Me Awake,” which appears in the anthology *Decent Into Darkness*. Emily (E.B.) Wheeler’s fourth book, the historical romance novel, *Yours Dorothy*, was released this month. Chadd VanZanten's new collection of outdoor essays, *On Fly-Fishing the Wind River Range*, will be released in Sept. 2018 by The History Press. Several of Felicia Rose’s poems, “Two Lives,” “Those Years I Lived,” “Semantics,” and “Don’t be Fooled” appeared in the anthology *Poetry at Three*. We hope you see many of you at the Symposium in June!

⇒ Heritage Writers’ Group (St. George)

Heritage Writers Guild Members continue to write and publish.

Tora Moon has released the third in her magical fantasy series ...Legends of Lairheim - Redemption. Available through Amazon.

Sheila Kinneer Robb has a new book, *Love On Line* - a great title and it should be available on line soon.

Tom Garrison says this about his most recent book: *Hiking Southern Utah*. “This guide is about hiking and generally exploring desert areas, specifically southern Nevada. There is no better way to experience the ruggedness, the history of settlement by Native Americans and later pioneers, and the solitude than by simply hiking and exploring. My purpose in writing this book is to enhancement the enjoyment of all who wish to sample the richness of southern Nevada.

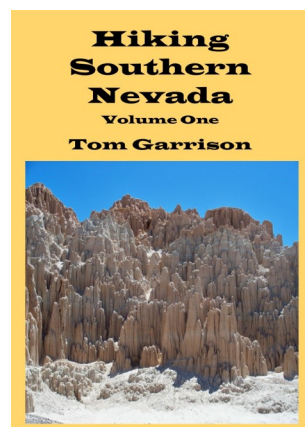
“My wife, Deb Looker, accompanied me on every hike. This book is a testament to her love of the outdoors as much as mine. Through trial and error from scores of hikes, reading many hiking books, and much Internet research, we have become experienced desert hikers.”

Critique groups continue on Wednesday afternoons and Thursday evenings.

Several members worked hard during May to update material for the contest.

Sue Leth and her committee spent countless hours planning and executing the St. George Literary Arts Festival held May 18 & 19th. Featured speaker was Angie Hodapp, author from Denver. Having heard her at the LUW fall conference, Sue immediately asked Angie if she would be available. Support money was obtained from the RAP tax fund in Washington County, Utah Humanities, and the County Library Association. Presenters who are LUW members included - Russ Estlack, Denis Feehan, Marie Tollstrup & Marilyn W. Richardson.

Local Writers who were given special recognition: Ester West, Ellie Terry, Laverna Johnson, Marilyn W. Richardson, and Dave Wolverton.



⇒ **Infinite Monkeys**

Infinite Monkeys – Speculative/Genre Chapter

President: Terra Luft

The 3rd annual Infinite Weekend Writing Retreat is open for registration – October 18-21st. If you would like to join us, we'd love to have you! Four day, three nights, 8000 square foot cabin full of writing and inspiration await you at Echo Lake. Space is limited to the capacity of the house with different levels of accommodations available. Food is included, and payment plan options exist. For more details and to submit your registration, check out our website <https://luwgenremonkeys.wordpress.com/infinite-weekend-retreat/>

The Infinite Monkeys have partnered with the South Jordan Arts Council and now have a permanent meeting location for monthly chapter meetings at the South Jordan Community Center. Meetings are held the second Wednesday of every month and everyone is invited to join us. We have presentations and critique format.

⇒ **Just Write**

Just Write is the at-large and online chapter. Ann Gordon is president, Mechelle Morrison is VP and Josie Hulme leads PR. Chapter members live in Utah, Idaho, Arizona, California and Connecticut. We have an active group and hold critique sessions twice a month. Ann creates newsletters for chapter members.

Congratulations are in order for these members:

- ◇ Edward Massey's novel, *Fugitive Sheriff*, will be released May 2019, published by Five Star Publishing. The setting for the story is Summit County in the early 1900s.
- ◇ Vern Grimshaw's YA sci-fi novel, *Boy Shielder: Earth*, will be released this year by Christian Faith Publishing. This is Vern's second book in the series.
- ◇ Brad Andes (writing as Andean White) has completed *Autumn's Rescue*, the fourth book in his Seasons series. The book will be published mid-June.
- ◇ Josie Hulme published an article and two of her short stories have been accepted:
 - ◇ "The Bible's Solution to Obesity" was published in the March issue of *Hektoen International*, a journal of medical humanities.
 - ◇ "Waiting for You" has been accepted for publication by *Words and Brushes*, a coffee table book that includes stories inspired by art.
 - ◇ "The Cottage," a flash story, has been accepted for publication in the LUW 2018 anthology.
- ◇ Ann Gordon's creative nonfiction story, "ACharmedLife," has been accepted for publication in the LUW 2018 anthology.
- ◇ Richard Goms published two articles:
 - ◇ "The Riddle of Patti Morris" was published in *Your Genealogy Today* in the Nov/Dec 2017 issue.
 - ◇ "Circus and Vaudeville: The Early Days" was published in *Your Genealogy Today* in the Mar/Apr 2018 issue.

⇒ **Salt City Scribes**

The Scribes have been busy lately!

JEF HUNTSMAN recently released his debut thriller novel, [JAMAICA RUSH](#), the first in his Carson series, and hosted a book signing promoting the launch of the novel on May 19 at Marissa's Books & Gifts. There was a good-sized crowd there, as well as cookies. :) The novel is available on Amazon: <http://amzn.to/2pfx1f5>. A sequel is planned for release in the fall.

Jef also released a book of poetry, [BALD CATS AND DEAF ELEPHANTS](#), the same day of his book signing. The chapbook is available on Amazon: <https://amzn.to/2J2W7Ji>

KEVIN SHANNON released his debut literary fiction novel, [THE TRIBULATIONS OF POOR SAUL](#). The novel is available on Amazon: <https://amzn.to/2ILruER>

⇒ Salt City Scribes (continued)

REBECCA BRENNER had an essay featured on Tin House, called "[To Love An Addict](http://tinhouse.com/to-love-an-addict)." The essay can be read here: <http://tinhouse.com/to-love-an-addict>

CINDY HUNG published her first short story, "In the Garden of the Coral King," in the anthology "[UNDERCURRENTS: An Anthology of What Lies Beneath](http://amzn.to/2pdfSlq)," by Kevin J. Anderson and Rebecca Moesta's Wordfire Press in March. The book is available on Amazon (<http://amzn.to/2pdfSlq>), iTunes (<https://apple.co/2KSninb>), and Nook (<https://bit.ly/2KUHRzF>).

Cindy also won a Silver Honorable Mention in the Writers of the Future contest for her story, "The Raven's Child."

⇒ Utah Valley Legends (Provo/Orem)

The Utah Valley Legends chapter continues to welcome new members. In addition to our standard monthly meetings in Provo and Orem, we have expanded south to include a meeting at the Springville library on the second Wednesday of every month.

⇒ New Chapters!

Please welcome the following new chapters:

⇒ Canyon Scribblers - Josie Russell

We are a new chapter dedicated to providing a supportive community of writers in all genres for the Southeastern corner of Utah. We have fiction writers, poets, and non-fiction writers. Our meetings so far have been dedicated to setting up the chapter and to sharing the great writing tools and resources we've come upon. We are looking for League members who might have great presentations to share with us, either live or by teleconference. Please contact our president if you have writing tips or techniques you'd be willing to share with our chapter. We are excited to be a part of the League and look forward to learning and growing together in our craft.

⇒ Platform For Publishing Fiction - Brian Carrington

⇒ Silver Peak Writers - Loralie Pierce

⇒ SLC Writers Group - Shauna Brock

The Quill is published four times a year by the League of Utah Writers, a nonprofit organization dedicated to offering friendship, education and encouragement to the writers of Utah.

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County Zoo,
Arts, &
Parks.