



News & Updates

Greetings, fellow writers! A couple months ago, I ceded control of a project to someone whom I believed would do a better job. This was a social media project that involved, like most social media projects, good lighting, catchy hashtags, and good-looking people making looking good look effortless. And while I didn't hate being in charge of this project, I never felt confident with it, either. I'd put something together at least once a week, but social media and all this new-fangled technology is just not my thing. So I passed it on to someone else; someone young and hip and comfortable with the platform.

And that person dropped the ball. The project has stalled and I don't know in what direction, if any, it's headed.

When I was in high school (don't worry, these stories are related), I knew this girl named Melissa, who neither disappointed nor impressed me. Melissa was just *there*, like the other 500-something kids in my class. Years later, my mother brought me copies of Melissa's recently-published books and informed me that Melissa was now an author, and that she traveled around and gave speeches at schools and conferences.

What?? How did Melissa, boring old *Melissa*, manage to snag my dream job? Well the answer is quite simple: She wrote until she had a book, and then when she had a book, she hustled until she sold it. She set her mind to a task, and she worked at it until it was accomplished. She didn't give up or get lazy. She didn't talk herself out of it because she wasn't the best in her field; she had the confidence to create something and share it with others.

To say the least, I was not excellent at the helm of the social media project, but I was at least in the range of ok-to-good. More importantly, I regularly produced *something*, which, when compared to nothing at all, actually looks like a whole lot.

I'm Kate Landers and I have no idea what the point of Snapchat is. Tell me about your workplace grievances at newsletter@chattanoogawritersguild.org.

You're Invited!

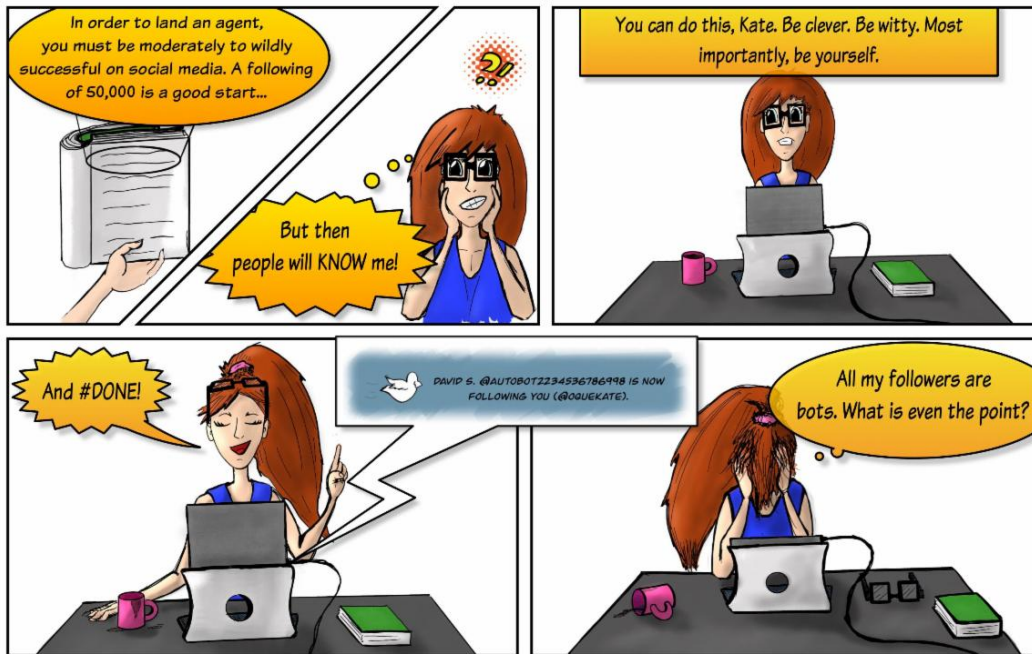
The CWG Christmas Party will be held on Tuesday, December 10th from 6-9 PM at First Christian Church, 650 McCallie Ave. We will have:

- *A potluck dinner --> Sign up [HERE](#) (Not a requirement, but signing up helps us make sure we have enough food!)
- *Live music by Nice 'N Easy
- *A fun writing game
- *Open-Mic (5 minute max, please)
- *Our 2019 Anthology for sale

We hope to see everyone there!

Save the Date!

The CWG 2020 Winter Writers Workshop is underway. Details are still to come, but go ahead and mark your calendar for Saturday, January 18th. You won't want to miss this!



Mad Blab

How to play: Say the following nonsensical sentences aloud and try to guess the name of the famous literary work you're saying. Answers at the bottom.

**Hall Kawaii yet Han thee Wes turn fur runt
Thee and made stay ill
Churr rack you'll ah**

Word to Know: **crapulence, n.**

Sickness resulting from eating or drinking too much

After losing her best friend, her dog, and her job all in one week, Chelsea purchased an eight-pound bag of Tootsie Rolls, an extra-large pepperoni pizza, and a 12-pack of her least-favorite beer, then settled in for the night. She was already looking forward to the crapulence of the morning.

The CWG needs YOU!

CWG is putting together an open-mic-style program.

Do you have experience in the fields of editing or publishing?

Do you have tips for pitches and queries?

Do you have advice on time-management, character development, or writing dialogue?

What suggestions or guidance could you provide to your fellow writers?

You will not be required to create an entire presentation; this will just be an evening of sharing our knowledge with one another. Contact John C. Mannone, our program director, if you would like to be a presenter.

Member Spotlight with Michelle Young



What was your first job? My first job was as a cashier at Goodlet's Food Market in Dunlap, TN.

What does your writing area look like? My writing area is surrounded by art supplies, books, and music equipment. It's a bit crowded, but as long as I have room for my laptop and a cup of hot tea, I can usually get the words flowing.

Tell us about your muse or source of motivation. I have gotten much of my inspiration from dreams. I usually dream three dreams every night, so you can imagine how many stories and lifetimes I have lived in my sleep. I frequently remember them for at least the day, and sometimes the ideas and stories are strong enough to stick for years. (I even remember a dream I had when I was five years old!) These include Sci-Fi and Fantasy themes, adventure, unique jewelry, animals, villains, and buildings I revisit even though I've never seen them in reality. Sometimes it feels like I live a double life. ;-)

Who is your favorite literary character? Princess Ivy in *Dragon on a Pedestal*, a Xanth series book by Piers Anthony. She is a young girl who happens to be a sorceress of enhancement. She can enhance qualities in others, and just by believing, she can make Hugo, who was "mentally slow and had the talent to conjure rotten fruit" into a guy who was "more intelligent" with the ability to conjure ripe fruit. I like the idea that in her innocence, she could consciously or subconsciously enhance the abilities of others, just by having a positive outlook.

What is your favorite book on writing? There is a series available through Barnes and Noble/Nook called "Write Great Fiction." The first book I read, "Plot and Structure" by James Scott Bell, inspired me to start writing right away. The whole series is written by various authors, and is an engaging library of information. I highly recommend it.

What writing project(s) are you working on at the moment? I am working (slowly) on a fantasy book that already has two sequels plotted out, as well as another fiction story that will probably be a stand alone. The fantasy book is linked to music that slated to be on my third solo album in the Progressive Rock genre, "Three Tales for the Telling." I've also been working on more poetry, and making submission goals. John C. Mannone has been a great inspiration and encourager in that area.

Tell us about a book or poem that had an impact on your life. The book that has had the biggest impact in my life is actually a collection of books - that is, the Holy Bible. God's word has, over a lifetime, encouraged me, admonished

me, given me wisdom and patience, and shown me the path to eternal salvation. I often think that if I had but one book I could read for the rest of my life, that would be my choice.

What is your favorite way to spend a cold, rainy day? On a cold, rainy day, I love to curl up with a good book and a cup of hot tea...or watch a magical movie like "Treasure Planet," or even listen to a book on Audible while I knit.

What is something you are looking forward to? I look forward to the completion of my first novel. When that happens, you will see me flying over the rooftops of Chattanooga, no wings needed.

Mad Blab answers: All Quiet on the Western Front; The Handmaid's Tale; Dracula

STAY CONNECTED

