

 Chattanooga  
**Writers' Guild**

## News & Updates

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Greetings, fellow writers! Last year at my derby team's Christmas party I made the "mistake" of getting onstage and grabbing the microphone. My intention was to simply give a little speech about how wonderful a certain teammate was before presenting her with an award, but somehow my speech turned into a 5-minute comic act. I honestly don't remember what I said, but after I walked off stage every single one of my teammates came up to me and asked when my next gig was going to be. Here we are, six months later, and they *still* bring up that night. So of course, me being me, I am already dreading this year's party.

What could I possibly say that will be anywhere near as funny as whatever it was I said that night? How did I manage to do it the first time? Am I actually funny or am I just a one-hit wonder?

So, writer to writer, let's talk about this "Imposter Syndrome." If you have had success early in your literary career, do you wonder if you'll be able to repeat it? If you have had continuous success with your writing, do you worry that you could lose it all in a second, or be discovered as a "fraud?"

I'm no therapist, so my advice is both unprofessional and subjective. (But I hope it's at least not detrimental.) My advice is this: Go watch *Cloud Atlas*, a movie that cost \$128 million dollars to make and grossed about a quarter of that. Halle Berry and Tom Hanks are its Oscar-winning leads (not for that movie, of course.) Both actors had successful careers before that bomb, and both actors are still doing just fine today. Or go listen to David Bowie's *Tonight*, regularly listed as one of his worst albums, even though it immediately followed his most successful album, *Let's Dance*. Bowie released 11 more albums after *Tonight*, and I won't even bother trying to list all of his hit singles from soundtracks and collaborations with other artists.

The point is - people sometimes fail. I fail. You fail. Professionals fail. Celebrities fail. It happens. So let's not worry about the *if* and start making plans for the *when*. What will you do *when* your debut novel doesn't do as well as you'd hoped? What will you do *when* you give a terrible live reading, or when your sequel fails to get a single review on Amazon?

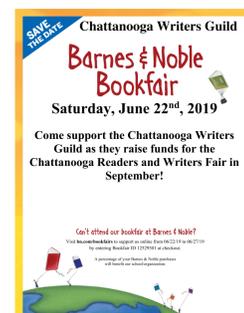
What will I do *when* my jokes don't get a laugh? Well, then I guess it's time for karaoke.

I'm Kate Landers and I put the *sha-na-na* in *shananananigans*. I also answer the emails sent to [newsletter@chattanoogawritersguild.org](mailto:newsletter@chattanoogawritersguild.org).

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## DON'T FORGET: The Fundraiser for the Chattanooga Readers and Writers Fair is a week from today!

On June 22 when customers refer to the Chattanooga Writers' Guild at checkout, a portion of sales will be donated to our organization to support the [Chattanooga Readers and Writers Fair](#). Come listen to authors [Susan Spurgeon](#), [Janie Dempsey Watts](#), [KB Ballentine](#), [MJ Kobernus](#), [Cynthia Robinson Young](#), and [Mark Anderson](#) read from their books between 2 and 4 p.m. Bring the kiddos for a children's reading at 11 a.m.



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**\*\*\*Calling all readers and writers!\*\*\***

The 2019 Chattanooga Readers and Writers Fair will be held Saturday, September 7 from 10 AM to 4 PM at the Downtown Library, 1001 Broad Street. Chattanooga area writers are invited to participate in presenting their works in multiple categories: Non-English, Creative nonfiction, Fiction, and Poetry. Authors will be selected through an application process. See website for details: [www.crwfair.org](http://www.crwfair.org).

\*Author readings in the Auditorium

\*Open mic stage for multiple genres on the library plaza.

\*Vendor tables and book sales, on the library 4th floor

\*Children's crafts on the 4th floor

\*More details to come!

## 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.

**Thick hurl width uh track kin tad who  
Hate hail huffed ooze hit tease  
Heffer thin kiss sill ooh man hated**

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### Word to Know: **Castigate**, v.

To severely criticize or reprimand

**Kevin's dad *castigated* him for losing his bicycle.**

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### Member Spotlight with **Leah Bailey**

**When did you first consider yourself to be a writer?** That's a really good question. I think it came in phases. I wrote when I was young, but I don't think I really considered myself a writer. However, looking back, I was a writer even then. I've found that I feel more and more like a writer as the years pass and I hit the goals I've set for myself. For example, when I finished my first novel, had my first short story published, got my first review, etc. all of those added to the feeling that I really am doing this.

**What does your writing area look like?** It changes! Even the format can be different. I sometimes write by dictation and then I take a walk and write into my recorder. I really like my newest gadget, a cheap \$25 find on ebay. It's a simple keyboard and word processor no longer in production. It has its drawbacks, but it can't access the internet, so no distractions. It's also sturdy, cheap, and the screen is good in bright light so I can take it anywhere. I write with it outside in parks, etc. At home, I prefer my laptop and a comfy chair. I do tend to stay away from noise



when I write so I can really concentrate so I haven't had much luck at busy coffee shops, etc.

**Tell us about a book or poem that had an impact on your life.**

Wow, there are so many! I would say that the Lord of the Rings had a big impact because I had never read something that was so in-depth. The world he created is the best I've seen in fantasy fiction so far.

**What is the best concert you've ever been to?** I'm a little ashamed to say this since I'm from the music capital of the world, but I haven't gone to many concerts. I do like the Mountain Opry on Signal Mountain. It seems so authentic and the people playing are very talented.

**Tell us about your marketing business.** I started my marketing business because I found that some businesses (and authors) struggle because they are not sure how to reach their target audience. And, worse, once they reach them, they're not sure how to connect with them in a meaningful way. My business focuses on finding the story involved and then using marketing techniques such as email marketing to build a long-term relationship with clients.

**What literary success are you most proud of?** At the moment, I would say it is winning the Southern Writers Magazine short story contest in 2016. It was thrilling and unexpected. I remember getting the call and being so shocked, especially when she said I needed to send a picture. I hadn't even read what the winner would receive because I didn't think I had a chance. My goal was top ten. So when she said I was going to be on the cover, I was completely surprised (and panicking!).

**What writing project are you working on at the moment?** I have a few projects going right now. I'm finishing up a dystopian novel I started about 20 years ago. It's been the one story I've always hesitated on because it meant a lot to me and it always felt like it needed time to simmer. However, it's all coming together now so I'm thrilled.

**Where is your favorite place to go in Chattanooga?** I love the hiking trails all over the Chattanooga area. I'm a country girl at heart, and I do my best writing after reconnecting with nature, walking, and thinking things over. Saying this, I'm not an avid hiker. I'm more of a stroller.

**Assuming necessities are provided, what 3 things would you take to a Martian colony?** My family, plants (if they don't have them), and maybe art supplies. I'm not an artist, but I think I would try to pick up a new hobby in a new world.

**Coming up next:** Bruce Gaughran

Mad Blab answers: *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*; *A Tale of Two Cities*; *Everything is Illuminated*

STAY CONNECTED

