

M.T. ANDERSON:

M. T. Anderson, author of books ranging from comic fantasy adventure to Gothic historical fiction, has just purchased a haunted house very cheaply. What could go wrong? In the past, he has journeyed into the Taklamakan Desert with friends to find the ruins of an ancient temple to a rat god, and has attended a group exorcism on the island of Java. He is looking forward to settling down in the new house, despite the reports of nocturnal sobbing outside the upstairs windows.



KELLEY ARMSTRONG:

Kelley Armstrong has been telling stories since before she could write. Her earliest written efforts were disastrous. If asked for a story about girls and dolls, hers would invariably feature undead girls and evil dolls, much to her teachers' dismay. All efforts to make her produce "normal" stories failed. Today, she continues to spin tales of ghosts and demons and werewolves, while safely locked away in her basement writing dungeon. She's the author of the *The Masked Truth* teen thrillers, "Age of Legends" high fantasy series, "Darkest Powers" & "Darkness Rising" teen paranormal trilogies and co-author of "The Blackwell Pages" middle-grade fantasy adventure trilogy. She lives in Ontario, Canada, with her husband, kids and far too many pets.



DON CALAME:

Don Calame is an author, screenwriter and amateur dog trainer. He has managed to teach his dogs to sit, stay, lie down, do a figure 8, play dead, and jump over hurdles. He is currently working on teaching his dogs how to do his wash and clean his bathroom. When Don isn't writing he is either watching hockey, watching hockey or watching hockey. When he isn't writing or watching hockey he is playing hockey either physically at an ice rink or virtually on his Playstation. Don loves reading, playing guitar, collection game worn hockey memorabilia and, did he mention, watching hockey.



SOME SECRETS OF BUILDING A PLOT:

In this workshop, we'll talk about some of the ways authors structure plots -- and build some of our own based on traditional models. Then we'll ask when these models are useful -- and when they just get in the way.

PICKING UP THE PACE:

"I couldn't put it down," is one of the best compliments an author can get. This workshop will focus on ways to keep readers up into the night, turning the pages. Kelley will provide tips and strategies for hooking readers from the first chapter and carrying them through to the last.

THE ART OF SCREENWRITING: *How to write for film and television.*

Learn the basics of plotting and writing a film or television show and then learn how to apply those same techniques in writing just about anything else. If you can master the basics of generating a great idea and then turning that idea into a well structured story you will have the ideal foundation for writing a film, TV show, novel, short story, and even picture books. The focus of the workshop will be screenwriting how-ever the techniques learned can be applied to all kinds of writing.

ROSE COOPER:

Completely normal and random and true facts about Rose:

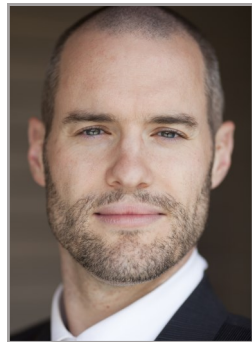
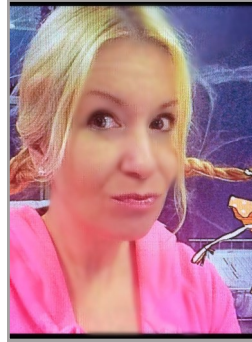
* She suffers from spontaneous laughter syndrome, often triggered from a joke told several days earlier. And sometimes she snorts. But let's not talk about that. Actually, let's forget that was ever mentioned, ok?

* For as long as she can remember, people have laughed at her. Her defining moment (not trying to brag) was being nominated for funniest person in her family. Three years in a row. **BAM!**

* She loves to find the humor in any situation. Even if it's an awful, terrible, and creepy situation. Like living at a cemetery. Or riding in a hearse. Occupied. With a corpse. Jealous much?

* Rose has met the man inside the Chucky Doll. True story! She even has a picture to prove it.

* She loves playing dress up with her adorable cat and puppy. The cat is still holding a grudge...



CORY DOCTOROW:

I can pick locks, make rubber bands pass through each other, and perform the most astounding feat of finger-magic you have ever seen.

DAN GEMEINHART:

Hi! I'm Dan Gemeinhart. I'm way taller than I need to be, but it comes in handy when a bird poops on my head (which happened to me at lunch in high school...I was tall enough to just stand straight and no one could see it. I rushed to the bathroom and washed my hair in the sink. It was moderately epic.). Even though I'm about a million years old (well, 37, which is basically the same thing), one of my favorite things to do is still to jump out and scare people. It's pretty immature. My wife's most common question to me is, "When are you gonna grow up?" It's a fair question. Oh, and I write books.

SHOW ME THE FUNNY:

Did you know there are a bazillion different types of humor? One type is exaggeration. I will show you how to add humor to your writing and/or illustrations, how to find the funny in any situation, and what types of humor work best for your style. Also, there are no excuses for **NOT** taking this workshop.

Excuse: I don't think I'm a funny person.

Me: If you have ever laughed in your life (yes, even once) then you can make someone else laugh.

Excuse: I try to be funny, but nobody gets it.

Me: Perfect! I'll help you understand why and what you can do.

Excuse: I'm a writer/illustrator. Not a comedian.

Me: Me too! But, the rules of good writing also apply to humor. Make your readers laugh, cry while reading your story. There will be exercises (not the running and sweating kind-eww!) for writers and illustrators. This workshop will be a safe place. Anything said or done will not be held against you. But prepare to be outrageous and silly and funny. And totally serious. And I will have chocolate. So... remember to bring me some!

INSPIRATION SUCKS:

Writing through inspiration sucks: it's a recipe to make you miserable as you wait for the inspiration to strike. Writer's block is no reason to stop writing (any more than "surgeon's block" would be a good reason for your doctor to cancel your gall-bladder op). Being a sane and happy writer means cultivating a non-heroic, daily practice of working. I'll tell you how.

GIVING YOUR STORIES CRUNCH AND CHEW:

Whoever stopped eating a Snickers bar when they were only halfway done? What makes a Snickers so satisfying? Balance. The same goes for awesome books. Great books have a perfect balance of fun, "crunchy" plot and intense, "chewy" emotion. This workshop will help young writers think about how to get both exciting action and real emotion into their writing...so their readers keep eating through the pages, and finish the story satisfied.

JESSICA DAY GEORGE:

Jessica Day George lives outside of Salt Lake City with her husband, three children, and a fluffy white dog. She got so jealous when she enrolled her two oldest kids in Irish dance that she started taking lessons, too. Even though she's older than the teacher, and only okay at it, she loves it and will never quit! She used to leave her knitting lying around all the time, but her husband stepped on a needle and it went through his foot and left a scar. After that she took better care of her knitting, so that none of the children would be injured. She has knitted a couple of sweaters, but mostly she knits stuffed animals, scarves, and oddments like fake fox fur stoles. She is planning to knit her own nativity scene for next Christmas, but will probably make the manger and stable out of LEGO.

**APRIL HENRY:**

April comes from bad blood. In 1656, one of her ancestors was charged with pig bewitchment. One great-grandfather was in an arson gang. Another gunned down her grandmother's boyfriend for kissing her. Don't worry - April only burns things down and kills people on paper. In third grade, April was the only girl cast as a reindeer in the school play. They had another casting call because they would not harness her with a boy. Before becoming a New York Times bestselling author, April held a variety of odd jobs, including German translator, cleaning lady, and a brief stint as the girl who jumps out of a cake. Not only can April make a cloverleaf shape with her tongue, she also knows Brazilian jujitsu and how to get out of handcuffs with a bobby pin. She also can't parallel park.

**BILL KONIGSBERG:**

Bill Konigsberg was born in New York City. Expectations were high based on his highly athletic birth; he stuck the landing and received a 5.8 from the Russian Judge, but he was later disqualified when it was determined he was doping. He blamed his mother, a practice that continued for more than four decades. A city boy at heart, Bill grew up unaware that chickens didn't come from the grocery store (he imagined they were created somewhere in the back). When he later found out the ugly truth, he became petrified of eggs. To this day, Bill will not eat an egg. Yet somehow he's just fine eating chicken.

**UNCOMFORTABLE SHOES, LAZY FAIRY GODMOTHERS, AND CURSED CREATURES, OR HOW TO WRITE A FAIRY TALE:**

Fairy tales. We've read the books, seen the movies, and probably own the t-shirts. So why are they still around? What makes them so popular, and what makes a fairy tale a fairy tale? How do writers take a centuries old story and make it new all over again? What are some things to avoid? And what are the best fairy tale retellings out there?

CHARACTERS MAKE YOUR STORY:

Learn how to create a character and then send him or her off on a journey. See how characters are at the heart of any plot.

THE SEVEN DEADLY SINS OF YOUNG ADULT DIALOGUE:

Practice not these seven deadly sins, and your manuscript shall be saved! In this workshop, we'll talk about good dialogue from the standpoint of what NOT to do, we'll create the world's worst dialogue, and then we'll turn it around and focus on how to make your character's conversations shine. We'll also talk about how to listen in on conversations in coffee shops without getting caught.

MORGAN MATSON:

Morgan Matson never thought she was going to be a writer. She planned on being a marine biologist, until she spent a summer at oceanography camp and realized that she got seasick, didn't like boats, and that fish creeped her out. (And that was day one.) Instead, she now spends her days inside, on dry land, writing YA novels about friends, family, love, and life-changing summers. She has a dog, Murphy, who never barks, and she once received Starbucks gifts cards from seven separate people on her birthday.



BRANDON MULL:

Brandon Mull is the #1 New York Times bestselling author of the Fablehaven, Beyonders, and Five Kingdoms series. He was also architect for the Spirit Animal series and wrote the first book. Brandon lived in the Atacama Desert of Northern Chile for two years where he learned Spanish and juggling. He once won a gold medal at a pudding eating contest at the park behind his grandmother's house. His newest series is Dragonwatch, the sequel series to Fablehaven.



MARY E. PEARSON:

Mary E. Pearson's favorite activities as a child were climbing trees and pretending she was Tarzan, or running along fence tops—and roofs—pretending she was a spy with a bagful of incredible gadgets. She was rarely herself. Amazingly, she never broke a bone until she caught a basketball in gym class. Catching real balls was not her forte. These days she continues to live in make-believe worlds she creates in her books. Her latest series, The Remnant Chronicles, allows her do all kinds of dangerous things without breaking any bones.



PUTTING SECONDARY CHARACTERS FIRST:

Sure, we all know the hero and heroine, and their doomed love/ quest to save the world/ road trip adventure/ fight for the crown. But what about the people standing off just to the side of them? The best friends and sidekicks? What about *their* stories? In this workshop, we'll look at examples of really successful secondary characters, and learn why they're important to the story and to the development of the main characters. And then we'll dive into creating them – how to make them fully realized people with their own desires and wants and lives happening off the page

IMAGINATION CAN TAKE YOU PLACES:

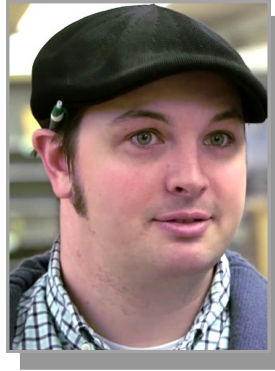
Brandon will discuss how reading and creating build imagination, and share where he looks for inspiration with his own writing.

TEN STEPS TO GET THE NOVEL WRITTEN:

Where to start? Just what does it take to actually write a whole novel? Superpowers? No. Mary breaks down the daunting, impossible task of writing a book, into small bite-sized steps so the process isn't so overwhelming. From Plot, to Point-of-View, to creating Villains, Mary will share tips and secrets to help you get started on your writing journey.

WILL RITTER:

William Ritter watches shows like Steven Universe and My Little Pony with his kids... but what his kids don't know is that he watches them just as much when they're gone.

**ELIOT SCHREFER:**

Eliot Schrefer has probably already played many of you with his Hearthstone priest deck. (Keep an eye out for "YellowBonobo.") When he's not playing video games, he's writing. Eliot is the author of *Endangered*, *Threatened*, and *Rescued*, survival stories about great apes and wartime which have twice been finalists for the National Book Award. He's also written for the Spirit Animals series. He's got a scar from when he was bitten by an ape, and is sort of a proud grandpa about his ape friends.

**LISA SCHROEDER:**

One of the best things Lisa ever did was write a book called *IT'S RAINING CUPCAKES* because it got her a gig as a cupcake judge at a big baking competition. At the event, she sat next to a chef who was a winner on the show "The Cupcake Wars," though she only managed to say a few words to him because she was too busy eating cupcakes. She's also written a couple of ghost stories and hoped she might be invited to be included in the remake of the movie "The Ghostbusters" but no such luck. Oh well. If you ever need a cupcake judge, you know who to call!

**5 FUNDAMENTAL FACETS OF NOVEL WRITING:**

A whirlwind tutorial through five key facets of storytelling: Enjoying the process, creating characters with character, getting a sense for sensory details, having fun with figurative details, and leaving room for the reader.

THE POWER OF THE WICKED QUESTION:

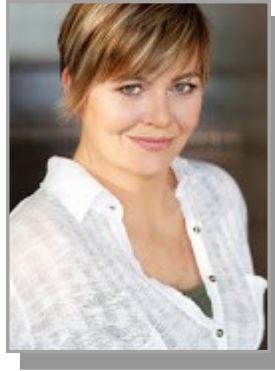
One of the most delicious moments in fiction is when the reader truly doesn't know what the protagonist should do, when two equally good paths lie ahead. In this workshop we'll structure stories together that start with a "Wicked Question"--a dilemma that gets to the heart of what your characters most want--and fear. If you write stories that start strong and then peter out before you can finish writing them, we'll look at how wicked questions can revitalize your tale.

LET'S WRITE A GHOST STORY:

Ghost stories are great for beginning writers because when you get stuck, you can turn to the ghost for some haunting help! In this workshop we'll discuss the five questions that will help you identify the nuts and bolts of a ghost story and we'll have some fun playing around with all sorts of creepy possibilities. Don't worry, there's nothing to be scared of...or is that what they all say?

LISA MCMANN:

Lisa McMann is proudly left-handed when it comes to things like writing, but she's ambidextrous when it comes to sports. Her favorite foods are bacon and avocados, and she doesn't eat sugar. She lives in the Sonoran Desert outside of Phoenix, and her backyard is home to various wayward cats who come by for a night now and then to get a free meal. Some even stay for a few years. Also wandering through her backyard are coyotes, javelina, rattlesnakes, and the occasional bobcat or mountain lion. You can see some of these cool animals on Lisa's Snapchat, Twitter, and Instagram @lisa_mcmann.



SUPER ANIMAL POWERS:

Using real animals and their amazing natural abilities to inspire superpowers and fictional characters in stories.