

Creative Writing

Get Started Writing Fiction

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F&W Media

1. Introduction

You want to write. You want to tell a story, create unforgettable characters, entertain and awe readers. You want to see your byline on a short story in a reputable in-print or online magazine. You want to see your novel in a brick-and-mortar bookstore like Barnes & Noble or an online bookstore like Amazon. You dream of being a writer. But you have no idea how to get started. You have no idea how a story works, how to create interesting characters, how to devise intricate plots, how to create conflict, how to describe setting or mood, how to choose a point of view, how to write an action scene, or how to create sparkling prose with metaphors and similes.

I had the same problems when I started out many years ago. I looked for books on the subject to help, but most of those dealt with nonfiction or self-help books. There was very little about fiction, about creating new worlds and great characters. There was virtually nothing about structuring a short story or a novel. I was on my own.

That's why I wrote this book. It's my hope to help aspiring fiction writers avoid the pitfalls I fell into and to avoid learning by trial and error. Hopefully, this book will help you write better stories, faster, and succeed as a writer quicker.

But who am I? Well, let's get to know me a little better, so you feel comfortable following my instructions and taking my advice:

Let me introduce myself; my name is Fred Wiehe. I'm a writer of paranormal, occult fiction, commonly referred to as horror or dark fiction. I'm a member of the Horror Writers Association, and my biography has been included in both *Who's Who in America* and *Who's Who in the World*. My published short stories include *Trick or Treat: It's the Puppet People*, published in *Sinister Tales*; *Trick or Troll*, published at *ShadeWorks*; *Creeper*, published in *The Ethereal Gazette, Issue #12* by *Lake Fossil Press*; *Predator & Prey*, published in the anthology *Slices of Flesh* by *Dark Moon Books*, and *The Collection*, published in the anthology *Read Us Or Die!*, by *Black Bed Sheet Books*. My collection of short stories *Holiday Madness: 13 Dark Tales for Halloween, Christmas & All Occasions* became my publisher's #1 Bestseller in 2010 and was reissued in a Special Limited Edition with two extra stories in 2012. My collection of short

stories *A Triumvirate of Short Stories* became an Amazon Kindle Bestseller in July 2015. My published novels include my newest YA (ages 13-17+) supernatural horror novel *Fright House*—released April 1, 2015 from *Damnation Books*—my Amazon Bestseller *Aleric: Monster Hunter*, *Strange Days*, *The Burning*, *Night Songs*, and *Starkville*. My first screenplay *Fright House*—in which my new novel of the same title was adapted—has been optioned by a Hollywood production company. I just finished my second screenplay *The Uglies*—adapted from my short story of the same title, published in *Holiday Madness: 13 Dark Tales for Halloween, Christmas & All Occasions*. About my new script, famed director Paul Lynch (*Prom Night*) said, “I read your script *The Uglies* and was pleasantly surprised, and most impressed. Great characters, story and it kept me reading.”

Being a horror writer, I am of course an avid fan of the strange and bizarre. My world is a place where paranormal and supernatural events occur on a frequent basis, at least in the fertile and twisted thoughts lurking in the dark shadows of my cobweb-laden mind. Everyday I sweep away those cobwebs as if the inside of my head were an attic and discover new morbid and dark fantasies hiding amongst old, discarded memories.

It’s the birthplace of the supernatural thriller *Strange Days* and that novel’s evil entity—a monster from another dimension—that steals a common man’s body and embarks on a bloody killing spree throughout San Francisco. It’s the place where the people in my dark fantasy novel *The Burning* first spontaneously combusted, leaving nothing behind but charred bones and the acrid odor of burnt flesh. The shape-shifters from the horror-suspense novel *Night Songs* also dwell there, mutating into predatory beasts on the prowl for fresh meat—human meat. It’s the world in which the ancient parasite in my science fiction novel *Starkville* first entered a human host through a nasal passage or an ear canal and turned that unsuspecting person into a psychotic killer by eating away at his brain. It’s where my urban fantasy novel *Aleric: Monster Hunter* was born. Within the pages of this novel, ravenous, flesh-eating zombies rip into walls and crash through windows in their mindless attempts at making it to the outside world. They’re driven instinctually by their need to feed on human flesh. Nightly, vampires rise from their coffins and hang upside down from the rafters, biding their time but always on the lookout for a way to escape from the written page and prey on unsuspecting victims, their bloodlust ready to erupt like volcanoes in Hell. A mad scientist also lives within this novel of horrors. He’s unsure about making himself known. He hides behind the discarded memories, out of sight, meek and cowardly, afraid of everything and everyone. Afraid to truly live, he searches for scientific means to find the strength and courage he’s sure is hidden deep within him, buried there like a corpse but just waiting to be reanimated. Also afraid of death, he’s even more desperate to discover a means to immortality. But what he finds is a dark side better left buried. What he unleashes is a part of him so primitive and savage that no one is safe, not even him. *Fright House*, a one-time insane asylum turned Halloween attraction, was also constructed there. It’s a place where unspeakable atrocities in the name of science were done to its patients. The ghosts living in this horrible place, however, lay dormant for years, at least until a young girl with psychic abilities inadvertently unlocks the true horrors hidden there, and a young

paranormal investigator and his up-and-coming, ghost-hunting team is hired to investigate. The ghost hunters come to believe that the Halloween attraction is not only haunted but also sentient, with a dangerous and deadly agenda all its own.

But fear not. It's not just wickedness and monsters that dwell within this attic of fantasies. There are heroes and heroines living there too. People just like you and me who stand strong against the challenges of preternatural evil. People who fight for not only their lives and the lives of their loved ones, but who also fight for the salvation of all humanity. As examples, Frank Talbort and David Kemp were born in that dark, foreboding attic in my head, two men who not only join forces but merge their spirits into one body to combat the monster who stole Frank's body in *Strange Days*. Also San Francisco homicide inspector Phyllis Blessing calls this place home, and she must uncover the mystery behind the strange, fire-ravaged deaths in *The Burning* before the entire population of Serenity Bay is lost to Hell's fire. It's the birthplace of the two San Jose cops in *Night Songs*, Alfie Free and Tommy Chandler, who must save not only themselves but a band of Gypsies and all of Big Sur from a ravenous pack of flesh-eating shape-shifters. Maggie Stark lives there too. She is the heroine of *Starkville* who must single-handedly stop the parasitic infestation that plagues her hometown and save her son Billy from the clutches of the parasite's newest victim. Penny Winters and Tory Jackson are two heroes thrust together by fate and psychic chance. They alone can stop the haunting atrocities at *Fright House*. But it's Aleric Toma Bimbai in *Aleric: Monster Hunter* who just might be the greatest hero of all. He emerged one lonely night from the deepest and darkest shadows within me like an avenging angel, more than eager to combat the supernatural evil that had consumed every corner of the dusty, dank attic I call my mind. He is a two hundred year old Gypsy, a bounty hunter of supernatural monsters. He is no angel, though, but rather a rogue only slightly better than the creatures he hunts. He is a gun for hire, with dark secrets and preternatural powers of his own. He is also a legend among his people, idolized and revered by most but abhorred and hated by others. He is a man with many allies and many enemies. His allies live comfortable in the knowledge that he will defend them to the death. His enemies live in total fear. He is a man who stands and fights alone on many fronts. He is a man who hunts and exterminates all supernatural creatures. His secrets are dark and many. His exploits border on the mythical and the legendary. His is a land where good versus evil in a never-ending battle for supremacy, and in his world a very thin line separates the two. He walks that line every night. He is in a constant struggle to remain on the side of good, but he must often cross over to the side of evil and meet his adversaries on their own ground. Defeat is not an option. He is a hero who believes that the end does justify the means, and he will do whatever he must to win and to stay alive to fight another day. To that end there is a price to pay. But he pays it willingly, sacrificing eternal salvation for his own soul to help make the world better for all.

After all that, you'd think this single, dusty room I call my mind—crammed full of not only gruesome wickedness but also righteous courage—would be overpopulated with monsters, victims, heroines, and heroes by now. You'd think

an evil breakdown or demonic possession from all the supernatural activity would be in my tarot cards. You'd think I'd need an exorcist. You'd think that no more space could possibly exist and that one more horrid creature or one more hapless victim or one more spirited defender of all that is good would topple the body housing this attic of the supernatural right down onto its foundation.

Such is not the case...yet.

As we speak, there are multiple, new evils lurking within these haunted walls, searching for points of escape. All are eager to unleash their wicked plans on the unsuspecting world and to come alive on the written page.

With *Zero Sin*, Book Two of *Aleric: Monster Hunter*, and the short story/poem collection *The Collected Nightmares*, I see no end to the battle for supernatural supremacy of my mind.

The attic is cramped but not yet full.

New villains and criminals lurk in dark corners, preying on the unsuspecting. New life is breathed into an assortment of monsters committing horrid acts of destruction and pain. Never-ending supplies of hapless victims suffer and die amongst the clutter and debris. But more importantly, new-found heroes or heroines always seem to step to the forefront in time of need. From whence they come I'm not always sure. But when they arrive it's as if I have known them forever, as if they are a part of me I didn't yet know existed. What I do know is that their courage and fortitude will be tested to extreme as they attempt to thwart the abhorrent acts of the preternatural creatures let loose upon the earth. For their work is never truly done; the ongoing war between good and evil rages with the fury of an inexhaustible hurricane. Where there is light, there is always dark. Where there is good, there is always evil. The struggle between these two powerful forces is eternal.

And until I die, I am here to tell their stories. I hope you come along with me for thrilling rides into the paranormal and supernatural worlds first created in the dark attic of my mind and brought to life between the covers of my novels, collections, short stories, and screenplays.

You can find my books on Amazon, Barnes & Noble, or at a bookstore near you. You can contact me at fwiehe@fredwiehe.com. My online homes are <http://www.fredwiehe.com> or <http://www.facebook.com/booksbyfredwiehe>. Stop by and read synopses and samples of all my works.

Now that you know more about me, I hope you feel comfortable listening to my advice. I hope you are eager to learn. So let's get started.

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