

Good Morning,

Welcome to our Independently Published Podcast presented by Cape Cod Writers.net

How many of you belong to the Master Class? I was gifted a year subscription from one of my writers which is such a treasure. Inspired??? You have no idea.

Today let's discuss your first line of your novel. Or any story.

My Something Series has 5 books finished and published and I am currently writing the 6th. *Something WYRD, Those Weyward Witches*.

If you have never read any of my series, it is pure fantasy. The entire setting is in Heaven and the characters are both Angels and Witches. This plot #6 centers around A.M. and his desire to marry his secretary/administrative assistant only he is overwhelmed by his duties and feels he cannot marry her because he also does not want to spoil her reputation. Yes, they even have those in Heaven, they are Angels, after all. And he is also unsure of her feelings towards him.

She secretly loves him and has for some time. She refuses to reveal this because another secretary she knew fell in love with her boss and was released from service and couldn't find another job. That is a shared fact between the reader and the narrator and no one else so her secret is safe.

There is another lovesick swain in the story, Count Alucard (*Dracula spelled backward) (Book #3, *Something Bloody*) His story is very involved, so I recommend you read the book. I had to read it again to be certain of my characters.

(research). **WARNING If you cannot stand the sight of blood, I advise you not to read this story.**

Several of my books have familiar people in them (dead of course or almost dead in the case of Alucard) Cupid is the main character in *Something Loverly*. He was an archer and did shoot arrows into people with Love Potion #9 on them.

(Metaphorically speaking). Lucifer or Lou C. Furr, Esquire a main character in *Something Merry*. Another familiar character in #6 the present one I am attempting to write is Chris Kringle or commonly known as a/k/a Santa Clause.

Now to the purpose of this podcast.

The first line in the first chapter.

This is the line that greets you, the reader, as you read the first lines of the first chapter. THIS IS ONE OF YOUR HOOKS which I will explain later.

Close your eyes and imagine with me, if you will, you are out somewhere in a group of writers, and your friend is introducing you to another person.

Crickey, you think, not another book critic...I want/need to make a good impression.

You only have one opportunity to make that first impression. How should you do it? If you shake hands, you want to have a firm but unsweaty grip. You want to be confident but not overpowering or needy (limp handshake) You want to smile and have the promise of an intelligent person, so they will want to get to know you. No droopy eyelids, no how-do-you-do disdain.

Your first line to any story should be like that first introduction. You are meeting your reader for the first time. Think how powerful that first line really is. Believe me when I say, I went back and read what I had written. (Crickey) and made a dramatic change. As writers, we can do this. Repeatedly.

My first line for this new book is
"Tea, please," groaned Wendy breathlessly.

Tea? No martini or coffee?

Why is she groaning and why does she ask for tea?
Who is Wendy and why is she breathless?
As the title is *Something WYRD*, that might give you a clue.
The sub-title is "*Those Weyward Witches*".

The spelling is actually from the old English.
The witches in all my series are the very same witches you read about when you read Macbeth originally created by that well known bard, William Shakespeare.

I have named the three witches Wendy, Willa, and Waldo (her father wanted a boy).

They originally lived in 1609 and were burned at the stake in 1623. Thus their appearance in Heaven. BUT, were not allowed entry because they had no place to live when they died. Glynnis Gwittmore, *Good Witch of the South*, Grannie Good

Witch's sister bequeathed the Fossilized Forest to Heaven and when that was done, the witches finally had a place to stay. (*Something Witchy, Book One and the pilot*)

Honestly, do I need to explain the whole series to you? Tiresome, you are very tiresome listeners.

To continue..... where was I?

I was supposed to put in an appearance at the airport this morning but chose to be here writing this podcast. I do hope Ed will understand.

Back to your first line in your book...

This is your first impression to your reader. Make it strong enough or suggestive enough or subtle enough to entice the reader to want more. If you craft it that way, the reader will read on and on, we can only hope.

Remember, I mentioned Hooks?

If you have crafted your book well and remembered something of what I have been preaching for years, Your HOOK is already built into your book.

1. Your title make it a grabber
2. Your cover - have it done professionally
3. Your blurb -check it with Grammarly or ProWritingAid first
4. Your first line into your first chapter - if you did not get it during this podcast?
5. Your bio - readers want to know who wrote this mess.

With that parting shot, I conclude this podcast.

The entire Something Series is available on Amazon.com and a few other book places.

I will post this text as a PDF on our website under workshops. Someone is bound to read it.

Thanks for listening.

Remember,

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Stay tuned...