



# Live Your Writing Dream

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 10

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## Thinking in Subplots

### FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

#### Upcoming workshops:

**Writing the YA Paranormal**

Starts November 29, 2010

#### Generating Story Ideas

Starts February 2011

For more information go to:

<http://savvyauthors.com/> and click on Workshops (scroll down and look on the left hand side).

**Your Fantasy Novel - Start to Finish in One Year with P. June Diehl**

Starts January 2011

Visit my website for more information. (URL on page 2)

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Please feel free to forward this newsletter in its entirety to others.

Best wishes!

June

Most novels contain at least one subplot. (For reference, a subplot is a secondary plot that supports the main plot by time, place, or theme. Oftentimes, a character other than the protagonist or antagonist is the focus of a subplot.) Subplots are less common in short stories.

Think of the subplot as a mini-story. The subplot has a beginning, middle, and end, but is shorter than the main plot, even if it expands most of the length of the main plot, the subplot still falls inside the boundaries of the main plot. The subplot has a climax and resolution, while not as powerful as the climax and resolution of the main plot it might be used to add tension, sus-

pense, or excitement in the middle of the main plot.

The biggest difference between the main plot and subplots are that the subplots take up less of the story, less of the action or events, have less significance, less impact on the story world, and often involve characters outside of the main characters.

#### EXAMPLES.

The main plot of *THE WIZARD OF OZ* is that Dorothy is taken from her home and, through a series of adventures, finds her way back. The subplots in the story revolve around the Tin Man, the Cowardly Lion, and the Scarecrow, who each have their own goals, and those goals

are woven around Dorothy's trying to return home. (The subplot type here is interwoven, which is discussed later.)

In Charles Dickens' *BLEAK HOUSE*, while the main plot is a complex one, Dickens goes off in several directions using several secondary characters as the POV character for one of the multiple subplots. These include the fate of Esther's mother, Lady Dedlock's secret, and the ghost at Chesney Wold.

Many novels include a subplot revolving around romance. This is probably one of the most familiar subplots.

## Do You NaNo?

Yes, it's here again. National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo – or NaNo for short). For those of you who don't know of this event, the object is to write 50,000 words in 30 days.

Does this seem impossible? Think of it in smaller steps.

1,666 words a day. Many people find a day or two a week to write more than the minimum. It's very doable and many do more than 50,000.

It's past the halfway mark, but if you didn't start the beginning of November con-

sider doing your own NaNo during a month that you don't have a lot going on.. Build a support system before you begin – a group of people who can check up on progress, who can cheer you on, encourage you as the days go by.

## Live Your Writing Dream



**Supporting fiction writers past obstacles on the way to publication**

Live Your Writing Dream  
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P. June Diehl  
Writing Coach, Writer, Teacher

PJuneDiehl@liveYourWritingDream.com

Www.LiveYourWritingDream.com

Blog: LiveYourWritingDream.wordpress.com

Live Your Writing Dream  
10820 Woodland Drive  
Fredericksburg VA 22407

540-898-7504

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## Your Fantasy Novel—From Start to Finish in One Year

Is this you? You love reading urban and/or paranormal fantasy. You have an idea for a fantasy and you're not sure where to begin. Maybe you have tried to start a fantasy novel, but got lost in the middle. Or, if you WANT to write a fantasy, but haven't fleshed out a concrete idea, this year-long novel writing course is for you.

The main focus of the class will be on the urban/paranormal fantasy, but anyone interested in writing a fantasy novel is welcome!

Over the course of the year, we will cover, in detail, all the craft elements of writing, while working on a draft, moving into the revision process, and ending up with a manuscript that is ready for submission.

Each student will:

- Work independently to com-

plete a novel - roughly 593 words per day/2963 words a week (5 days) which gives an 80,000 word manuscript. This is for the 27 weeks during which the draft will be written.

- Work in small groups giving feedback on assignments and the



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writing.

- Work with a writing buddy.
- Finish readings and writing assignments.
- Complete a synopsis
- Finalize a query letter.
- Learn about the publishing business.
- Complete a submission package.
- Understand how to submit a novel
- Learn aspects of marketing your novel.

For more information:

<http://savvyauthors.com/vb/>

Click on Savvy University, then Intermediate Tracks.