



"The devil is in the details."

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# Live Your Writing Dream

## Starting with Setting

"This is Paris; here the winds of change are blowing, whispering their discontent into the very hearts of her citizens."

-- THE RED NECKLACE by Sally Gardner

Setting can be used to open a story, but not as a stand-alone device, unless it is unusual enough in nature and is later tied into another element, such as the theme. It can be woven into the character, the action or situation, or other story element.

Setting includes: place, time, weather, sensory experiences, culture, etc. For the fantasy and science fiction writers, the word used is world building. But this term doesn't apply to just those genres, for each time a writer sits down to begin a new story, they are creating a new world, not matter if it is like our own or far removed from what we know.

Setting is often coupled with description, but it can be combined with dialog, action, or character thoughts and emotions. It can be used in the opening of a story to help establish a mood.

"Mr. and Mrs. Dursley, of number four, Privet Drive, were proud to say that they were perfectly normal, thank you very much."

-- HARRY POTTER AND THE SORCERER'S STONE  
by J. R. Rowlings

Some genres might require more detail about setting from the beginning of the story. Historical and science fiction readers usually need more details about setting than many of the other genres. On the other side, consider romance, where the reader is more interested in the characters, so that would be the place to begin.

The horror and thriller stories are others where the writer might begin with setting.

One of the important items for a reader turning to page one is where the story is taking place. This builds a frame for the rest of the story. Try to establish the setting in the first couple of paragraphs.

The devil is in the details. You can give a specific detail (or two) about a setting without actually naming (telling versus showing) the setting.

**For example:** Joan put her bags on the floor beside her, her eyes fixed on the plane at the end of the runway.

### Showing the character:

That evening T.J. smelled the air, his nostrils dilating with the order of the earth under his feet. "It's spring," he said, and there was a gladness rising

in his voice that filled us all with the same feeling.

"It's mighty late for it, but it's spring" ... We were all sniffing at the air, too, trying to smell it the way that T.J. did, and I can still remember the sweet odor of the earth under our feet. It was the first time in my life that spring and spring earth had meant anything to me.

"Antaeus" by Borden Deal

### Mood:

During the whole of a dull, dark, and soundless day in the autumn of the year, when the clouds hung oppressively low in the heavens, I had been passing alone, on horseback, through a singularly dreary track of the country.

"The Fall of the House of Usher" by Edgar Allan Poe

### FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

My blog is updated every week. Check it out!

Visit: [LiveYourWritingDream.wordpress.com](http://LiveYourWritingDream.wordpress.com)

### PLOTTING SUBPLOTS

July 5 - 11, 2010

### ACTIVE versus PASSIVE Writing

Starts August 3, 2010

For more information for the above workshops and to register, go to:

<http://www.savvyauthors.com/workshops.cfm>

For a complete list of upcoming workshops and events, go to:

<http://LiveYourWritingDream.com/>

and click on Workshops for coaching and writing coming events.

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

Best Wishes,  
June



# Live Your Writing Dream

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

## Special Announcement: New Class Starting January 2011

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.

I will be teaching a new course for Savvy University starting January 2011. The class is: Your Fantasy Novel - Start to Finish in One Year with P. June Diehl

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.

This intermediate course will cover

topics in detail, with the assumption that the student has a basic understanding of the craft elements of writing fiction.

Due to the intensive nature of this program, all prospective students must first submit an application plus a 500 word sample of their writing.

Admittance is at my discretion, and I will be evaluating applications as they are received.

## EACH STUDENT WILL...

- Work independently to complete a novel - roughly 593 words per day/2963 words a week (5 days) which gives an 80,000 word manuscript (the student can increase the number of total words, which will give different daily and weekly totals).
- Work in Small Groups – five to six per group – giving feedback on assignments for the course work which relate directly to the novel writing; and during the revision phase – giving feedback which each writer will use to revise his/her novel.
- Work with a Writing Buddy – on assignments and feedback (and support!)

- Finish readings and writing assignments which cover intermediate topics
- Complete a synopsis
- Finalize a query letter
- Complete a submission package
- Learn about the publishing business
- Understand how to submit a novel
- Learn aspects of market your novel.

For more information, go to:

<http://www.savvyauthors.com/vb/content.php?342-Your-Fantasy-Novel-Start-to-Finish-in-One-Year-with-P-June-Diehl>

Contest for Scholarship: More details to follow later this year...One winner will be provided a full scholarship to the class.

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