

WEBVTT

1

00:03:12.510 --> 00:03:22.980

Lisa from ProWritingAid: hi everybody it's Lisa here thanks for coming back again so as always, can we just double check that you can hear me and see me if you can say yes in the chat.

2

00:03:24.480 --> 00:03:25.260

Lisa from ProWritingAid: Yes, yes, yes.

3

00:03:26.430 --> 00:03:32.070

Lisa from ProWritingAid: Oh so many people here with over 200 people already how exciting Thank you everyone for coming so.

4

00:03:32.640 --> 00:03:45.990

Lisa from ProWritingAid: We are loving this week so much, and we hope you are too, if you haven't joined the Facebook group yet, please do it's totally buzzing with romance writers, who are all excited and inspired and ready to write a romance book or story.

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00:03:46.500 --> 00:03:51.510

Lisa from ProWritingAid: And we've just dropped the link in the chat for the Facebook group so pop over and say hello, when you've got a chance.

6

00:03:51.900 --> 00:03:59.730

Lisa from ProWritingAid: And if you've missed any of the sessions, so far, or if you can't make any of the sessions later this week, then don't worry we put all the replays up on the hub.

7

00:04:00.090 --> 00:04:13.920

Lisa from ProWritingAid: Until the 23rd of October see but lots of time to catch any of the ones that you missed So if you go to the hub and scroll down to the bottom, where the list of events are we're just putting each of the videos in right underneath the title and description.

8

00:04:14.370 --> 00:04:22.950

Lisa from ProWritingAid: And just a reminder if you've got any questions for my guest today, please use the Q amp a box, instead of the chat because, as you can see the chat is going quickly.

9

00:04:23.280 --> 00:04:32.010

Lisa from ProWritingAid: And i've got so many people over there, which is amazing, but the q&a box is where i'm going to have a look,

when I come to questions at the end.

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00:04:32.640 --> 00:04:40.560

Lisa from ProWritingAid: Okay, and with all that taking care of let's get started, so my name is Lisa lackey and I am part of the pro reading a team.

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00:04:41.010 --> 00:04:50.160

Lisa from ProWritingAid: My favorite part of my job for sure is meeting writers and authors, who have managed, make a successful career out of making up stories.

12

00:04:50.520 --> 00:05:05.760

Lisa from ProWritingAid: And I love interrogating them and learning as much as I possibly can, so that I can then steal that and use it in my own writing life and today, is no exception because i'm super thrilled to welcome carolyn brown carolyn was born in Texas and raised in.

13

00:05:05.790 --> 00:05:09.330

Lisa from ProWritingAid: Oklahoma and she is the author of more than 100 books.

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00:05:09.510 --> 00:05:17.910

Lisa from ProWritingAid: She sold more than 6 million copies and has been translated into 19 foreign languages we're dropping a link to her website in the chat now, so you can have a look.

15

00:05:18.390 --> 00:05:29.340

Lisa from ProWritingAid: and her newest book second chance at sunflower around came out in June, but she also has this incredible back catalogue of books that you should all dip into if you want to have a real.

16

00:05:29.640 --> 00:05:33.900

Lisa from ProWritingAid: masterclass in writing romance so carolyn Thank you welcome.

17

00:05:36.870 --> 00:05:37.200

Carolyn Brown: Thank.

18

00:05:38.370 --> 00:05:40.020

Carolyn Brown: You for having.

19

00:05:41.430 --> 00:05:44.010

Carolyn Brown: me it's an honor to be here.

20

00:05:44.970 --> 00:05:55.110

Lisa from ProWritingAid: So I should just alert everyone that there's a lot of wind and potential storm warnings in where carolyn is so that we have a little bit of a delay going on we're blaming the winds.

21

00:05:55.740 --> 00:06:07.680

Lisa from ProWritingAid: For the a slightly delayed Internet connection so just be patient sometimes there's a bit of a delay so i'll ask my questions and then we'll just let carolyn go off on all of her stories so she can tell us how she got to.

22

00:06:07.830 --> 00:06:08.910

Carolyn Brown: where we are today.

23

00:06:09.420 --> 00:06:11.220

Lisa from ProWritingAid: So carolyn how did it all begin.

24

00:06:18.720 --> 00:06:23.250

Carolyn Brown: It all began when I was about five years old.

25

00:06:24.600 --> 00:06:32.100

Carolyn Brown: And she will not sleep at night, she just would not sleep, she was she didn't cry she just.

26

00:06:32.130 --> 00:06:34.350

Carolyn Brown: didn't want to go to sleep she's still a night owl she's.

27

00:06:34.350 --> 00:06:37.230

Carolyn Brown: 48 she's still not out but.

28

00:06:38.340 --> 00:06:48.270

Carolyn Brown: I didn't have anything to write with that my husband and I had been talking about a book for many years and I picked up a pencil and I spiral back notebook and I started to write.

29

00:06:49.110 --> 00:06:59.640

Carolyn Brown: And a few weeks later, my husband brought me home a top router an old Underwood with keys about this tall folks and.

30

00:07:00.840 --> 00:07:20.130

Carolyn Brown: I thought i'd died and gone to heaven, because I had a typewriter but that book did not sell it did not sell for 40 years and, finally, I rewrote it rewrote it and the heroine the hero in it the hero, in itself, Thomas.

31

00:07:21.600 --> 00:07:43.440

Carolyn Brown: grew older, as I rewrote the book So when I started the book he lives in a 16 1720 years old 20 years 40 years later, he was at and it sold and it's called a lollipop okay so that's where I got the start, but now for 20 years.

32

00:07:44.490 --> 00:07:50.160

Carolyn Brown: I tried to get a foot in the door to publish books tried my best.

33

00:07:51.270 --> 00:07:59.700

Carolyn Brown: sent out query letters, those were the days when you sent them out by mail and you had to send a stamped addressed envelope to get your answer back.

34

00:08:00.780 --> 00:08:03.870

Carolyn Brown: send them out send them out send them out nothing.

35

00:08:05.430 --> 00:08:24.960

Carolyn Brown: I kept going so all you authors out there don't give up you, you can you can publish if you'll just stay with it, and today you have more options than we had in 1997 so I just kept trying until one day I got a call and.

36

00:08:26.340 --> 00:08:37.230

Carolyn Brown: Hillary sayers from kensington said, I want to buy both the books, you have sent me the proposals on and I about find it, I thought it was a joke just playing a joke on me, but it was.

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00:08:38.610 --> 00:08:40.020

Carolyn Brown: I got I.

38

00:08:41.550 --> 00:08:58.500

Carolyn Brown: sold her those two books so two more line died, by then, I was working for avalon and not long after that I started working for source books, not long after that I started working for Amazon so it's just been a process for.

39

00:08:58.530 --> 00:08:59.520
Lisa from ProWritingAid: Intel that time.

40
00:09:00.060 --> 00:09:04.710
Lisa from ProWritingAid: But, are you telling everyone how old you were when you when that call came in, when you sold your first book.

41
00:09:06.150 --> 00:09:07.500
Carolyn Brown: Just before I was 50.

42
00:09:08.580 --> 00:09:14.850
Lisa from ProWritingAid: So for everyone who's watching who, like me, is worried they might have missed their moment there's still time we can still do it.

43
00:09:15.810 --> 00:09:17.070
Carolyn Brown: Of course you can do it.

44
00:09:19.980 --> 00:09:20.700
Carolyn Brown: can't.

45
00:09:20.970 --> 00:09:22.890
Carolyn Brown: Yes, yes don't.

46
00:09:23.310 --> 00:09:25.440
Carolyn Brown: you've got actually.

47
00:09:26.490 --> 00:09:28.680
Carolyn Brown: I wouldn't want to offend anyone here.

48
00:09:29.850 --> 00:09:39.750
Carolyn Brown: But at 4950 and those that age group, you have more life experience you have more to draw on, then you might have at 20.

49
00:09:40.950 --> 00:09:52.500
Carolyn Brown: All right not to those are yours to be drawn living when you get to be 40s and 50s you're still living but you've got more to draw on more experience.

50
00:09:53.610 --> 00:09:59.610
Lisa from ProWritingAid: More wiser to the world and how and how all of these relationships work right i'd like to think that anyway.

51

00:10:00.360 --> 00:10:06.180

Carolyn Brown: Of course, of course, you are so to all of you out there who who aren't.

52

00:10:07.560 --> 00:10:10.260

Carolyn Brown: spring chickens anymore I love you to do.

53

00:10:11.520 --> 00:10:12.450

Carolyn Brown: spring chicken.

54

00:10:14.790 --> 00:10:26.370

Carolyn Brown: enjoy enjoy life and just the experiences that you're having will will come up in your books, the people you meet the people you see on the street.

55

00:10:27.600 --> 00:10:30.360

Carolyn Brown: They become real in your books.

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00:10:31.050 --> 00:10:31.470

Lisa from ProWritingAid: And are you.

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00:10:31.500 --> 00:10:36.150

Lisa from ProWritingAid: Have you always been an observer, do you watch all of the people everywhere, you go and.

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00:10:36.540 --> 00:10:39.210

Lisa from ProWritingAid: And and pick apart the interesting bits.

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00:10:40.200 --> 00:10:42.930

Carolyn Brown: Yes, ma'am surely did.

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00:10:44.520 --> 00:10:49.500

Carolyn Brown: And what one character might be a combination of four or five people I know.

61

00:10:51.240 --> 00:10:59.520

Carolyn Brown: So yes, you watch people you don't know you just that's just inspiration yeah.

62

00:10:59.790 --> 00:11:07.740

Lisa from ProWritingAid: And I love that so did you always want to be a writer, we wanted those kids that always had a notebook and

then always had their nose buried in a in a book.

63

00:11:08.790 --> 00:11:10.680

Carolyn Brown: No, I was just a storyteller.

64

00:11:11.790 --> 00:11:24.300

Carolyn Brown: I always had my nose buried in a book, but my brother and my sister who were younger than me they had to listen to my stories, so I was the storyteller some of them were pretty bad.

65

00:11:26.370 --> 00:11:38.460

Lisa from ProWritingAid: that's fine that's how it starts right everybody started, we just did an interview with Julie Cohen, and she said, the thing she didn't know is that you then everybody starts out bad and then you get better and then you learn what works and what doesn't.

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00:11:39.300 --> 00:11:41.400

Carolyn Brown: Absolutely absolutely.

67

00:11:42.840 --> 00:11:55.590

Carolyn Brown: My first four books I got the rights back to them, I was given that and I self published them and then, just as they were I didn't do anything to them, but recently, I had the opportunity to.

68

00:11:56.220 --> 00:12:07.650

Carolyn Brown: sell them to a trade publisher and I redid them, I was amazed at how much they needed redone they were pretty bad.

69

00:12:09.180 --> 00:12:19.830

Carolyn Brown: Not only just in the fact that in 1997 there was no cell phones or laptops or all that stuff that we have now, but.

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00:12:20.880 --> 00:12:30.930

Carolyn Brown: The writing itself was not as good as it should have been, and could have been so I was very glad to redo those four and get them resolved.

71

00:12:31.920 --> 00:12:34.290

Lisa from ProWritingAid: I mean you know you're 100 books in there must.

72

00:12:34.290 --> 00:12:36.450

Lisa from ProWritingAid: be so much that you've learned between.

73

00:12:36.510 --> 00:12:41.820

Lisa from ProWritingAid: When you read those first books I got sold and everything that you've learned between then and then.

74

00:12:42.990 --> 00:12:44.880

Carolyn Brown: Yes, absolutely.

75

00:12:45.960 --> 00:12:48.660

Carolyn Brown: learning about marketing promotion.

76

00:12:50.700 --> 00:12:54.240

Carolyn Brown: Basic like point of view, just writing in general.

77

00:12:56.880 --> 00:13:03.960

Carolyn Brown: My theory is that when you stop learning, you might as well just go ahead and die you're finished.

78

00:13:04.140 --> 00:13:04.680

Carolyn Brown: you're done.

79

00:13:05.670 --> 00:13:06.570

Carolyn Brown: you're done.

80

00:13:07.290 --> 00:13:11.160

Lisa from ProWritingAid: But I think a lot of people think that writing is something that you're born.

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00:13:11.220 --> 00:13:18.480

Lisa from ProWritingAid: To do, and I think that's something that I have always loved writing, but I thought you know that's something that authors do that something like.

82

00:13:18.750 --> 00:13:24.060

Lisa from ProWritingAid: That you're born with some sort of genius and I didn't suddenly recently, you know in my 40s that i've.

83

00:13:24.630 --> 00:13:40.590

Lisa from ProWritingAid: kind of really understood how much of it is a learned process and how much of it is technical and how much of it is you know just things like you're seeing these have this this isn't this or it's not going to work, and I think the idea that you

can learn to write a book is really empowering.

84

00:13:42.210 --> 00:13:44.250

Carolyn Brown: Right absolutely.

85

00:13:46.590 --> 00:13:48.060

Carolyn Brown: If you're so right.

86

00:13:49.380 --> 00:14:01.920

Carolyn Brown: There are people who who can't write a decent book i've met some of them, but their problem is that they're not willing to learn.

87

00:14:03.540 --> 00:14:14.820

Carolyn Brown: They think this is my baby i'm not changing a word of it, I refuse to listen to my editors and I do not want.

88

00:14:15.690 --> 00:14:30.270

Carolyn Brown: To do what they tell me to do, or what they suggest that I do so they're not willing to learn and that's a that is a very big part of writing is learning how how to go about it and.

89

00:14:31.410 --> 00:14:39.000

Carolyn Brown: You just if, when you stop when you when you have that mindset you're not going to go very far that's all there is to it.

90

00:14:40.770 --> 00:14:40.980

Carolyn Brown: yeah.

91

00:14:41.100 --> 00:14:41.610

Lisa from ProWritingAid: I agree.

92

00:14:42.840 --> 00:14:43.410

Lisa from ProWritingAid: So.

93

00:14:44.250 --> 00:14:47.670

Lisa from ProWritingAid: So i've got a few questions here from various people, but I would just.

94

00:14:47.790 --> 00:14:53.010

Lisa from ProWritingAid: i'd love to know what you most love about writing what's the what's The thing that.

95

00:14:53.220 --> 00:14:54.690

Lisa from ProWritingAid: That gets you out of bed every morning.

96

00:14:55.920 --> 00:14:56.610

Carolyn Brown: it's Skype.

97

00:14:57.930 --> 00:14:58.350

Lisa from ProWritingAid: Really.

98

00:14:58.410 --> 00:15:07.260

Carolyn Brown: Pure Skype I have a son right in front of me sitting right over here, it says, I know the voices are not real, but they have really great ideas.

99

00:15:10.260 --> 00:15:15.240

Lisa from ProWritingAid: And you really dive into your world and just cut everything.

100

00:15:15.930 --> 00:15:21.900

Carolyn Brown: Yes, I have tunnel vision when i'm writing a book that's what i'm doing.

101

00:15:23.910 --> 00:15:32.970

Carolyn Brown: My characters are in my head they're very real, as a matter of fact they're so real sometimes they wake me up at night and tell me that I didn't write the last chapter right.

102

00:15:35.040 --> 00:15:35.910

Carolyn Brown: Very do it.

103

00:15:36.360 --> 00:15:39.150

Carolyn Brown: yeah but I got up and let me sit late.

104

00:15:43.290 --> 00:15:51.390

Carolyn Brown: So I am into what I right, I mean I am in it i'm in the moment at pri with them, I laugh with them.

105

00:15:52.170 --> 00:15:59.700

Lisa from ProWritingAid: And you're changing the same character is a lot don't you do they continue bubbling around in your brain and so that you can revisit them.

106

00:16:00.480 --> 00:16:05.790

Carolyn Brown: Yes, it's a matter of fact, sometimes you forget what's real and what's fictional.

107

00:16:08.760 --> 00:16:12.540

Lisa from ProWritingAid: I love that idea that everything can become so real that you're not even sure.

108

00:16:13.350 --> 00:16:14.040

Lisa from ProWritingAid: yeah whether it's.

109

00:16:15.300 --> 00:16:16.440

Lisa from ProWritingAid: Something that you wrote.

110

00:16:17.310 --> 00:16:24.690

Carolyn Brown: You back I dragged my feet on the last two chapters of a standalone book because I don't want to tell them.

111

00:16:28.470 --> 00:16:32.760

Carolyn Brown: So I I am just very into my characters.

112

00:16:35.310 --> 00:16:42.210

Carolyn Brown: I have a very large family, and I know when i'm writing that's what i'm doing.

113

00:16:43.320 --> 00:16:44.610

Lisa from ProWritingAid: And they know is my son.

114

00:16:45.360 --> 00:16:46.350

They respect that.

115

00:16:47.700 --> 00:17:00.540

Lisa from ProWritingAid: So carolyn was telling me that she's in this is her writing room and so you can see up behind her she's thought all of her book covers on the wall and tell me what you what you would tell them what you told me, but the ones behind you in the black friends.

116

00:17:01.500 --> 00:17:03.360

Carolyn Brown: The ones in the black friends.

117

00:17:04.680 --> 00:17:08.730

Carolyn Brown: My publisher might like romance since to me when I have.

118

00:17:10.290 --> 00:17:19.200

Carolyn Brown: Published or sold what I have sold 100,000 copies of that book and there's 23 year on the wall.

119

00:17:22.950 --> 00:17:30.150

Lisa from ProWritingAid: Okay, so characters you're talking about characters did you do you start with characters for the most part is that you're jumping off point for your books.

120

00:17:31.020 --> 00:17:31.650

Yes.

121

00:17:32.820 --> 00:17:42.150

Carolyn Brown: Yes, my characters okay here's what I tell people when i'm talking to when they asked me if i'm a pastor are a plot stir.

122

00:17:44.040 --> 00:17:45.660

Carolyn Brown: I started out being a plotter.

123

00:17:46.830 --> 00:18:05.190

Carolyn Brown: For about five chapters and it's kind of like I am the pilot of the big jet airplane and I put all my characters in the passenger seats and i'm the pilot I know where i'm going and about five chapters in the characters hijacked applying.

124

00:18:06.480 --> 00:18:10.710

Lisa from ProWritingAid: I like going and that's when the venture begins.

125

00:18:10.740 --> 00:18:20.340

Carolyn Brown: that's when the adventure all starts and begins and and they tell me where we're going to go and what we're going to do and I listen.

126

00:18:20.610 --> 00:18:22.020

Lisa from ProWritingAid: Just follow instructions.

127

00:18:22.230 --> 00:18:25.680

Lisa from ProWritingAid: And I have you end up, I know I and maybe you end up in the end.

128

00:18:27.000 --> 00:18:33.030

Carolyn Brown: yeah all right now down on the beach in South Texas, with a hurricane.

129

00:18:34.050 --> 00:18:38.370

Lisa from ProWritingAid: yeah which you know, probably isn't where you want to be, but probably makes for a great story.

130

00:18:39.180 --> 00:18:47.880

Carolyn Brown: yeah that's where we are writing these days so yeah the characters characters run the story for me.

131

00:18:50.160 --> 00:18:55.470

Lisa from ProWritingAid: Okay, so you tell me what you must love about writing, what do you find most difficult about writing.

132

00:18:57.660 --> 00:18:59.850

Carolyn Brown: i'm sagging metals.

133

00:19:00.630 --> 00:19:03.180

Lisa from ProWritingAid: samples right yeah.

134

00:19:04.470 --> 00:19:09.570

Carolyn Brown: You have told by the time you get to the middle of your story it's kind of like climbing a mountain.

135

00:19:10.260 --> 00:19:21.450

Carolyn Brown: writing a book is climbing the mountain you start at the bottom and you climb to the top well that top is your saggy middle, believe it or not, even though it's the top of the mountain.

136

00:19:22.050 --> 00:19:33.300

Carolyn Brown: And you better have something there that is going it's it's either an argument or something that is going to happen right there that will keep your reader reading.

137

00:19:34.080 --> 00:19:46.320

Carolyn Brown: If not they're gonna slide back down the wrong side and put the book to the side and probably never buy another one, so what you want to do is is really have something big right there in that saggy middle.

138

00:19:47.670 --> 00:19:49.470

Lisa from ProWritingAid: so hard, I feel, like so many.

139

00:19:49.710 --> 00:19:53.850

Lisa from ProWritingAid: Authors get that wrong because they know where they want to start and they know where they want to go and then.

140

00:19:54.150 --> 00:19:57.000

Lisa from ProWritingAid: In the middle of leg it just gets a bit murky.

141

00:19:57.930 --> 00:20:02.940

Carolyn Brown: Right right so you've got to you've got to remember when you began.

142

00:20:04.530 --> 00:20:12.540

Carolyn Brown: And you might know where you're going to start and you might know where you're going to end basically but that middle part is as important.

143

00:20:13.590 --> 00:20:15.090

Carolyn Brown: As the whole rest of the book.

144

00:20:17.010 --> 00:20:18.120

Lisa from ProWritingAid: yeah I agree.

145

00:20:19.560 --> 00:20:20.040

Lisa from ProWritingAid: and

146

00:20:23.250 --> 00:20:25.800

Lisa from ProWritingAid: So when when it comes to editing.

147

00:20:27.210 --> 00:20:32.250

Lisa from ProWritingAid: You you you've got your, you said you start off with a plan, and then the plan goes all over the.

148

00:20:32.250 --> 00:20:34.140

Lisa from ProWritingAid: place and then you get to the end of your first.

149

00:20:34.140 --> 00:20:34.740

Draft.

150

00:20:35.940 --> 00:20:42.810

Lisa from ProWritingAid: Why go next, are you someone that shows that to anyone else, or do you keep it all tight and how many drafts, do you end up going through.

151

00:20:44.190 --> 00:20:46.680

Carolyn Brown: My husband is retired English teacher.

152

00:20:47.460 --> 00:20:48.090

Lisa from ProWritingAid: Oh that's how.

153

00:20:49.650 --> 00:20:55.050

Carolyn Brown: he's also an author he writes mystery and he's got 11 books out there, but.

154

00:20:56.820 --> 00:21:10.770

Carolyn Brown: He wrote he reads my first rough edit my first rough rough draft so he reads that for me and puts in the comments that i'm horrible at, and although.

155

00:21:11.730 --> 00:21:13.170

Lisa from ProWritingAid: Like comas we.

156

00:21:13.380 --> 00:21:15.990

Lisa from ProWritingAid: will need your husband yeah.

157

00:21:16.410 --> 00:21:24.960

Carolyn Brown: So he takes care of that, then I send it in to my editor my developmental editor goes through three edits with me.

158

00:21:26.130 --> 00:21:29.970

Carolyn Brown: The first one, I blocked off 40 hours off my calendar for.

159

00:21:30.870 --> 00:21:38.070

Carolyn Brown: The second one about 2030 hours to get it going, and the third one, just an overnight grammatical thing.

160

00:21:39.540 --> 00:21:52.470

Carolyn Brown: Then it goes to the copy editor at the publishing house, then it goes to the proof editor and then a final aren't cold read, so what is that seven eight edits besides what I do is all

right.

161

00:21:54.060 --> 00:21:54.660

Carolyn Brown: that's all.

162

00:21:56.760 --> 00:21:56.910

and

163

00:21:58.050 --> 00:22:08.970

Lisa from ProWritingAid: What are the most important things that you think you get back from your developmental editor because I think people don't never quite sure how that relationship works, how is it useful for you.

164

00:22:10.140 --> 00:22:20.040

Carolyn Brown: I love my developmental editor she is she pushes me out to the edge of the cliff and ties a rope around man threatens to kick me off.

165

00:22:22.320 --> 00:22:28.080

Carolyn Brown: She is amazing, I asked for her we have been through many books together.

166

00:22:29.850 --> 00:22:37.710

Carolyn Brown: She can see what I need to do to strengthen the plot or the the character.

167

00:22:38.730 --> 00:22:49.920

Carolyn Brown: I am very, very fast so she helps me slow it down and write more emotion into the book, she will say off to the side here.

168

00:22:51.990 --> 00:23:12.090

Carolyn Brown: We need some emotion, here we need an emotional response, we need to feel something here and so she out is I really like her, and copy and poof poof editing is just what it says, you know just making sure that our color is it red green on page one and brown on page 42 so.

169

00:23:13.170 --> 00:23:13.680

Carolyn Brown: yeah but.

170

00:23:15.030 --> 00:23:20.520

Carolyn Brown: If you can have a good developmental editor listen to her she'll be good for you.

171

00:23:21.420 --> 00:23:23.130

Lisa from ProWritingAid: it's i'm sure it's hard you know.

172

00:23:23.220 --> 00:23:26.310

Lisa from ProWritingAid: When you like you were saying before, some people have created their babies.

173

00:23:26.310 --> 00:23:28.080

Lisa from ProWritingAid: And then to have someone come in and say.

174

00:23:28.680 --> 00:23:39.540

Lisa from ProWritingAid: You know i'm sure, a lot of times they get feedback like a whole subplot isn't working or whole character isn't working, it must be hard, do you find it hard to say goodbye to your babies.

175

00:23:40.260 --> 00:23:49.950

Carolyn Brown: Sometimes I have dropped characters i've dropped subplots and I have written a whole new beginning.

176

00:23:51.090 --> 00:23:57.600

Carolyn Brown: A whole new chapter of a beginning, and when I got finished I looked at it and thought she is a genius.

177

00:24:01.110 --> 00:24:02.760

Lisa from ProWritingAid: So yeah yeah.

178

00:24:03.510 --> 00:24:04.920

Carolyn Brown: yeah i'm i'm.

179

00:24:06.060 --> 00:24:08.670

Carolyn Brown: I really do listen to my editor.

180

00:24:10.170 --> 00:24:12.660

Carolyn Brown: Because I feel like she has guided me well.

181

00:24:13.950 --> 00:24:22.200

Lisa from ProWritingAid: And I think it must it's it's so hard to see your own writing sometimes because things exist in your own head that you feel like have made it onto the pages, but.

182

00:24:22.470 --> 00:24:25.710

Lisa from ProWritingAid: haven't like there's maybe tasted right but.

183

00:24:27.600 --> 00:24:27.990

Carolyn Brown: Right.

184

00:24:29.670 --> 00:24:51.360

Carolyn Brown: One of my very first editor ever ever in 1997 told me, she said, I want to taste what my character is what your character is tasting I want to see it, I want to feel it, I want to hear it, she said, I want to get the taste of red Oklahoma dirt in my mouth when I read.

185

00:24:51.540 --> 00:24:52.080

This.

186

00:24:53.550 --> 00:24:55.560

Carolyn Brown: It was very, very good advice.

187

00:24:56.400 --> 00:25:09.450

Lisa from ProWritingAid: yeah yeah but, like, I was saying carolyn's books always take me slightly longer to read because i'm read all of her dialogue and is slow southern drawl which I think is sort of amazing because it just somehow.

188

00:25:09.870 --> 00:25:15.270

Lisa from ProWritingAid: You put me it's almost like your settings or another character in your book okay just feel.

189

00:25:15.810 --> 00:25:20.340

Lisa from ProWritingAid: That world so intensely and i've never been Oklahoma, but I feel like I have a sense of it.

190

00:25:20.340 --> 00:25:21.120

Lisa from ProWritingAid: From your books.

191

00:25:22.050 --> 00:25:25.890

Carolyn Brown: That that is one of the best compliments i've ever had right.

192

00:25:28.740 --> 00:25:29.160

Carolyn Brown: To make.

193

00:25:29.790 --> 00:25:38.460

Carolyn Brown: It an author can make a reader feel emotion if they can make a man if they can make them happy.

194

00:25:40.680 --> 00:25:49.230

Carolyn Brown: i've had readers write to me and say I hated this one character absolutely hated her, and it was so good to be able to hate somebody.

195

00:25:52.380 --> 00:25:53.760

Lisa from ProWritingAid: nemesis and the book is.

196

00:25:56.250 --> 00:25:58.170

Carolyn Brown: For is to touch emotion.

197

00:25:59.220 --> 00:26:01.470

Carolyn Brown: You can anybody can tell a story.

198

00:26:02.340 --> 00:26:04.740

Carolyn Brown: yeah to be a touch emotion.

199

00:26:05.910 --> 00:26:13.440

Lisa from ProWritingAid: is what makes Roman so magical isn't it, I mean have you always written romance if you ever dip your toes into any other.

200

00:26:13.710 --> 00:26:15.630

Carolyn Brown: genres well.

201

00:26:17.010 --> 00:26:18.420

Carolyn Brown: I rot women's fiction.

202

00:26:19.620 --> 00:26:22.920

Carolyn Brown: With just a little thread of romance and yet.

203

00:26:24.060 --> 00:26:29.040

Carolyn Brown: And i've got quite a few of those most of what's on the wall behind me is women's fiction.

204

00:26:31.560 --> 00:26:35.490

Carolyn Brown: i've written cowboys everton historical contemporary.

205

00:26:39.060 --> 00:26:52.500

Carolyn Brown: For you know but it's pretty much been romantic set for my women's fiction which romance is got it has the thread but it's not the the absolute Center of the story friendship is.

206

00:26:53.580 --> 00:26:59.850

Lisa from ProWritingAid: Right Okay, well, I was talking in our introduction for the summer yesterday actually used your book the ladies room.

207

00:26:59.940 --> 00:27:02.160

Lisa from ProWritingAid: As an example, because I just it's one that I.

208

00:27:02.160 --> 00:27:03.420

Lisa from ProWritingAid: read recently and I just.

209

00:27:03.480 --> 00:27:06.990

Lisa from ProWritingAid: loved it and I was saying that so often romance books.

210

00:27:07.020 --> 00:27:07.680

aren't.

211

00:27:09.540 --> 00:27:12.330

Lisa from ProWritingAid: We have a very broad definition of romance sort of anything.

212

00:27:12.330 --> 00:27:13.350

Lisa from ProWritingAid: That has a love story.

213

00:27:13.350 --> 00:27:16.800

Lisa from ProWritingAid: But I feel like that book isn't really about.

214

00:27:17.250 --> 00:27:21.060

Lisa from ProWritingAid: Her relationship with this is named billy Ray.

215

00:27:21.630 --> 00:27:22.020

The.

216

00:27:23.490 --> 00:27:24.390
Carolyn Brown: billy.

217

00:27:24.690 --> 00:27:32.160
Lisa from ProWritingAid: billy but the hunk next door it's not really about their relationship that that book is about trudy finding herself and finding.

218

00:27:32.160 --> 00:27:35.400
Lisa from ProWritingAid: Her power and becoming everything that she was supposed to be right.

219

00:27:36.060 --> 00:27:52.020
Carolyn Brown: Yes, that was actually my first women's fiction book my editor know my agent my agent said to me that my books were beginning to lean in the direction of women's fiction, rather than just contemporary romance.

220

00:27:52.380 --> 00:27:56.070
Carolyn Brown: Because I had so much friendship and impact and women's empowerment in them.

221

00:27:56.640 --> 00:27:59.100
Carolyn Brown: yeah no I put.

222

00:28:00.300 --> 00:28:05.760
Carolyn Brown: I wrote the book it's one of the only full length book that I have ever written in first person.

223

00:28:06.810 --> 00:28:07.110
Carolyn Brown: So.

224

00:28:08.460 --> 00:28:24.570
Carolyn Brown: yeah i've written a little novella and first person, but not a full line, and so I wrote the book sent it to her, she sent it out to lots of people and I already had probably 50 books, under my belt and nobody wanted it because I wasn't known in the women's fiction world.

225

00:28:26.580 --> 00:28:41.010
Carolyn Brown: So we shortened it to the right word length and avalon that was one of the last books avalon bought before Amazon bought the company and bought me with it and which was a very good thing for me, but.

226

00:28:42.210 --> 00:28:47.550

Carolyn Brown: That has been my all time best selling book and it is set in the town where I grew up.

227

00:28:48.390 --> 00:28:48.870

Lisa from ProWritingAid: and love it.

228

00:28:51.330 --> 00:28:53.730

Carolyn Brown: tissue mango calm and now share a.

229

00:28:55.110 --> 00:29:01.890

Carolyn Brown: room at the historical museum there with Blake Shelton and Gene Autry and Tiana.

230

00:29:03.000 --> 00:29:03.270

Lisa from ProWritingAid: Not.

231

00:29:04.500 --> 00:29:05.700

Lisa from ProWritingAid: Keeping good company.

232

00:29:06.450 --> 00:29:16.500

Lisa from ProWritingAid: yeah, but I think right in it, we said in the beginning with this summit we you know we're calling it a romance writing summit but we're not limiting ourselves to you know very traditional Romans we're.

233

00:29:16.800 --> 00:29:22.140

Lisa from ProWritingAid: Talking about anything that has romance within it as a subplot so maybe you're writing sci fi and it's got.

234

00:29:22.140 --> 00:29:27.960

Lisa from ProWritingAid: romance and then maybe writing women's literature and there's a romance within it, because ultimately.

235

00:29:28.500 --> 00:29:31.170

Lisa from ProWritingAid: All of it is about relationships right and it's.

236

00:29:31.260 --> 00:29:32.130

Lisa from ProWritingAid: About connection and.

237

00:29:33.000 --> 00:29:33.720

Finding.

238

00:29:35.580 --> 00:29:40.200

Lisa from ProWritingAid: Finding something within yourself that resonates through that relationship with someone else.

239

00:29:41.580 --> 00:29:46.290

Carolyn Brown: Right absolutely relationships what it's all about whether it's friendship.

240

00:29:48.030 --> 00:29:55.980

Carolyn Brown: relationship as an we're going to get married at the end of this book or we're just going to live together at the end of this book or whatever, but.

241

00:29:56.610 --> 00:30:14.970

Carolyn Brown: it's all about relationship that first editor I told you about also told me that you can't take a man and a woman or a two people or whatever and set them down on a blanket under a pretty shade tree and let them fall in love you've got to throw rocks at him.

242

00:30:16.290 --> 00:30:17.850

Lisa from ProWritingAid: yeah yeah.

243

00:30:18.840 --> 00:30:23.340

Carolyn Brown: So sometimes I forget just how big the rockets and I throw boulders.

244

00:30:25.920 --> 00:30:27.000

Lisa from ProWritingAid: that's exciting.

245

00:30:27.540 --> 00:30:28.230

Carolyn Brown: Right yeah.

246

00:30:28.740 --> 00:30:33.090

Carolyn Brown: So you need to you need to remember, there needs to be conflict.

247

00:30:34.230 --> 00:30:54.180

Carolyn Brown: So you can't like I say you can't give them a basket of fried chicken and psycho fall in love on that blanket over there you've got to give them something to have to work toward a relationship, but I think that's laugh we don't we don't get it all

sweet and glorious.

248

00:30:57.150 --> 00:30:59.280

Carolyn Brown: it's not all rainbows and unicorns.

249

00:31:01.050 --> 00:31:05.670

Lisa from ProWritingAid: it's not hopefully there's a little bit of rainbow and a little bit of unicorn toots but.

250

00:31:07.290 --> 00:31:09.240

Lisa from ProWritingAid: that's just one part of a big picture.

251

00:31:10.080 --> 00:31:21.450

Carolyn Brown: Right right, so you need to have some of the conflict in the book and a lot of that conflict is is is a lot of times that can be your second middle.

252

00:31:24.150 --> 00:31:30.120

Lisa from ProWritingAid: yeah okay so that's how you can keep things moving along and so, how do you.

253

00:31:31.350 --> 00:31:40.110

Lisa from ProWritingAid: Because in a couple of the books that you've read some of your characters are quite imperfect and sometimes they do things that you know, maybe aren't that likable, how do you make sure that your.

254

00:31:40.110 --> 00:31:43.290

Lisa from ProWritingAid: reader is cheering them on at all times.

255

00:31:44.970 --> 00:31:45.390

Lisa from ProWritingAid: Because you'll be.

256

00:31:46.050 --> 00:31:47.070

Lisa from ProWritingAid: Around side right.

257

00:31:48.060 --> 00:31:49.470

Carolyn Brown: yeah you pray a lot.

258

00:31:53.310 --> 00:31:58.320

Carolyn Brown: Nobody nobody's perfect and sometimes.

259

00:32:00.000 --> 00:32:01.530

Carolyn Brown: They say you write what you know.

260

00:32:02.670 --> 00:32:07.290

Carolyn Brown: And there isn't very I don't think I could write.

261

00:32:08.400 --> 00:32:12.330

Carolyn Brown: A 20 year old model in New York City.

262

00:32:13.590 --> 00:32:13.950

Lisa from ProWritingAid: yeah.

263

00:32:14.250 --> 00:32:16.260

Carolyn Brown: I couldn't do it, I don't know that.

264

00:32:18.030 --> 00:32:35.250

Carolyn Brown: So you have you just have to wrap what you know, so I don't know many perfect people and now people who are a little imperfect some that are downright main some that are a whole lot Betsy.

265

00:32:36.630 --> 00:32:44.700

Carolyn Brown: And so you just draw on what you know to write and they put it that way, your characters become real in your readers eyes.

266

00:32:45.630 --> 00:32:46.620

Lisa from ProWritingAid: Okay, great.

267

00:32:47.280 --> 00:32:52.200

Lisa from ProWritingAid: i've got underway we're already halfway through and i've just been asking all my questions because I just have a lot of.

268

00:32:52.200 --> 00:32:59.490

Lisa from ProWritingAid: questions, but so let's ask some from some of the people that are here Teresa wants to know she says hi carolyn it's an honor to hear your story.

269

00:32:59.760 --> 00:33:03.030

Lisa from ProWritingAid: What authors have you read that really inspire you to write.

270

00:33:04.560 --> 00:33:10.410

Carolyn Brown: I am an eclectic reader i'll read everything from fault, not to the cheerios backs.

271

00:33:13.260 --> 00:33:15.540

Lisa from ProWritingAid: Are there any that stand out who are your favorites.

272

00:33:16.410 --> 00:33:21.240

Carolyn Brown: Laval Spencer was my favorite we had awake in my house when she retired.

273

00:33:22.950 --> 00:33:24.930

Carolyn Brown: I like Sue grafton.

274

00:33:26.130 --> 00:33:26.760

Carolyn Brown: and

275

00:33:28.560 --> 00:33:30.450

Carolyn Brown: Right now i'm reading a.

276

00:33:31.590 --> 00:33:34.920

Carolyn Brown: Arc from Nancy nagel I like her work.

277

00:33:36.150 --> 00:33:39.000

Carolyn Brown: Sharon sala lori wild.

278

00:33:43.620 --> 00:33:47.790

Carolyn Brown: Also, when my husband was in college I.

279

00:33:48.870 --> 00:33:51.690

Carolyn Brown: I read a lot of the classics.

280

00:33:52.740 --> 00:33:55.080

Carolyn Brown: enjoy them Dostoevsky.

281

00:33:56.910 --> 00:33:57.420

Carolyn Brown: Like I said.

282

00:33:58.710 --> 00:34:03.780

Lisa from ProWritingAid: Do you think you have to read a lot to be a good writer, do you think it's part of the process and practice as

well.

283

00:34:04.770 --> 00:34:06.060

Lisa from ProWritingAid: now know.

284

00:34:08.790 --> 00:34:19.770

Carolyn Brown: Where where my husband was teaching in Texas, he retired in Oklahoma better last he could not feed me on what he made so we had to go to Texas for seven years, so he can feed me so.

285

00:34:20.970 --> 00:34:25.530

Carolyn Brown: Wait I read a book a day and wrote a chapter a day.

286

00:34:27.090 --> 00:34:27.510

Carolyn Brown: So.

287

00:34:27.870 --> 00:34:41.820

Carolyn Brown: You know I read lots and lots of different offers but I don't think as a matter of fact i'm very cautious about reading too much romance or too much women's fiction.

288

00:34:42.270 --> 00:34:59.850

Carolyn Brown: Because I am terrified that some of their voice will come through in my book in my you know that that even without realizing that I might adopt something that they have said, or that they have written so i'm careful about that I wouldn't want to steal anybody else's thunder.

289

00:35:00.540 --> 00:35:15.330

Lisa from ProWritingAid: And yeah that's a good idea we've been talking a little bit in the Facebook group about whether or not you can read once you're a writer, can you just read for pleasure, or you always sort of taking it apart and looking at what they've done and looking at the technical elements of it.

290

00:35:16.590 --> 00:35:19.740

Carolyn Brown: Right that's very that's that is a problem.

291

00:35:21.000 --> 00:35:22.620

Carolyn Brown: I feel like it changes, how you read.

292

00:35:23.550 --> 00:35:28.110

Carolyn Brown: It does it really does so I do when I have time to read.

293

00:35:30.300 --> 00:35:38.490

Carolyn Brown: A lot of times it's to help out another author like to read something for a blurb or something like that, but when I have time to read it's usually mystery.

294

00:35:40.590 --> 00:35:42.780

Carolyn Brown: I said I like I really like soup.

295

00:35:43.020 --> 00:35:45.930

Carolyn Brown: Black Sue grafton I read some Patricia corn oil.

296

00:35:48.180 --> 00:35:50.190

Carolyn Brown: whatever's in front of me.

297

00:35:51.150 --> 00:35:52.380

Lisa from ProWritingAid: different kind of escape.

298

00:35:52.410 --> 00:35:57.540

Lisa from ProWritingAid: Right is it escaped into your work for the romance and then escape out of Romans.

299

00:35:57.870 --> 00:36:02.040

Lisa from ProWritingAid: You know so you're not we're at work, then you can head over to Mr in those sorts of.

300

00:36:02.460 --> 00:36:04.260

Lisa from ProWritingAid: Things I don't have the same crossover.

301

00:36:05.310 --> 00:36:05.520

Carolyn Brown: Right.

302

00:36:06.510 --> 00:36:12.540

Lisa from ProWritingAid: Okay, good question from Tobias, how do you identify if and when something isn't working.

303

00:36:14.790 --> 00:36:16.200

Carolyn Brown: What it doesn't feel right.

304

00:36:16.890 --> 00:36:17.700

plain and simple.

305

00:36:18.840 --> 00:36:20.490

Carolyn Brown: If it does not feel right.

306

00:36:21.780 --> 00:36:26.940

Carolyn Brown: Get rid of it if you're fine Jerry Jerry flowers was one of my very favorite.

307

00:36:28.140 --> 00:36:28.980

Carolyn Brown: comedians.

308

00:36:30.120 --> 00:36:35.010

Carolyn Brown: And he used to say if you're arguing with yourself you're about to mess up.

309

00:36:36.540 --> 00:36:36.780

Carolyn Brown: So.

310

00:36:36.810 --> 00:36:48.270

Carolyn Brown: yeah so if you're if it just doesn't feel right go back and look at it again and think, why did Why am I even arguing with myself if this is not working and i've done that lots of times.

311

00:36:49.110 --> 00:36:58.500

Carolyn Brown: i've had to go back and say this this just doesn't feel right it doesn't work right it my character it's out of character for my character so redo it.

312

00:36:59.220 --> 00:37:01.410

Lisa from ProWritingAid: We did go back and take it apart.

313

00:37:01.470 --> 00:37:02.190

Carolyn Brown: figure out.

314

00:37:02.220 --> 00:37:03.540

Lisa from ProWritingAid: what's what started again.

315

00:37:03.930 --> 00:37:08.850

Lisa from ProWritingAid: You throw things I ever give a drawer where you put things that haven't quite worked that you might.

316

00:37:09.120 --> 00:37:10.170

Lisa from ProWritingAid: Go back to at some point.

317

00:37:10.950 --> 00:37:13.080

Carolyn Brown: Absolutely, a foul.

318

00:37:13.500 --> 00:37:14.850

Carolyn Brown: This just deleted saying.

319

00:37:15.480 --> 00:37:15.960

yeah.

320

00:37:17.130 --> 00:37:17.850

Lisa from ProWritingAid: yeah we.

321

00:37:17.880 --> 00:37:29.160

Lisa from ProWritingAid: don't need to view it in rankin last year, and he said he's got a file that he that's where he keeps things and then he goes back through it regularly and finds little bits and pieces that he can then are like germination of an idea.

322

00:37:30.120 --> 00:37:34.050

Carolyn Brown: Absolutely absolutely that's that's what you do.

323

00:37:35.580 --> 00:37:39.510

Carolyn Brown: it's kind of like the bloopers on the after a show.

324

00:37:39.870 --> 00:37:40.290

yeah.

325

00:37:42.390 --> 00:37:43.380

Lisa from ProWritingAid: yeah yeah yeah.

326

00:37:44.040 --> 00:37:45.600

Carolyn Brown: that's what didn't work.

327

00:37:47.340 --> 00:37:49.260

Carolyn Brown: So you just go.

328

00:37:51.030 --> 00:37:54.750

Carolyn Brown: It just trust your gut it'll tell you what to do.

329

00:37:55.530 --> 00:38:06.180

Lisa from ProWritingAid: you're doing with yourself then you've got a problem I think that's great advice i've got someone here who wants to know how you organize your stories do outline do you do all the research.

330

00:38:06.180 --> 00:38:11.340

Lisa from ProWritingAid: To software, how do you put it all together in the beginning, before you start flying a jumbo jet.

331

00:38:12.630 --> 00:38:13.230

Carolyn Brown: My.

332

00:38:15.240 --> 00:38:19.410

Carolyn Brown: process begins with going where I am going to write the story.

333

00:38:20.490 --> 00:38:21.570

Lisa from ProWritingAid: here's where the setting.

334

00:38:22.500 --> 00:38:40.950

Carolyn Brown: Yes, most of my stories are written in Texas now because my publishers, like the voice of Texas and do I sound like when I talk anyway, as you can well here and I have the most redneck drawl in Texas.

335

00:38:42.390 --> 00:38:44.400

Lisa from ProWritingAid: And I love your drone and so great.

336

00:38:45.990 --> 00:38:51.780

Carolyn Brown: So I go where I am going to be writing about the setting.

337

00:38:54.120 --> 00:38:57.690

Carolyn Brown: I did that, when I was writing my very first.

338

00:38:58.920 --> 00:39:11.730

Carolyn Brown: Historical book about the Oklahoma land rush, and there was a little bitty town up there in that area around Guthrie Oklahoma called Dodsworth and it's not there anymore, but in the story, I was writing that.

339

00:39:12.960 --> 00:39:31.980

Carolyn Brown: The woman the heroine there, especially was doing her laundry and swimming in this creek well when I went and did the

research, the creek was running about 10 feet down to red clay sides and the water in it was money, to say the least.

340

00:39:33.210 --> 00:39:34.410

Carolyn Brown: there's no way.

341

00:39:36.360 --> 00:39:38.520

Carolyn Brown: To go swimming in our little white.

342

00:39:39.540 --> 00:39:53.820

Carolyn Brown: Not team not team whatever year, no, no, this was back in the 1800s a little lot swimming suit that I made those days, so I learned right quick you don't write what you don't go see.

343

00:39:54.900 --> 00:40:07.110

Carolyn Brown: So I did I go see it first then get an idea of the landscape, the actual setting and then come home and start to write.

344

00:40:08.580 --> 00:40:10.140

Carolyn Brown: I do some very good plotting.

345

00:40:14.040 --> 00:40:16.680

Carolyn Brown: In the car going to and from setting sites.

346

00:40:17.250 --> 00:40:20.220

Lisa from ProWritingAid: yeah freshly, this is what.

347

00:40:21.510 --> 00:40:34.080

Carolyn Brown: yeah i've been there and i've said yeah, this is why i'm going to set a book and I get there and it's that thing we were just talking about it didn't feel right, so we have to go elsewhere.

348

00:40:36.390 --> 00:40:45.780

Carolyn Brown: And that that's my first first thing is to go see it but we've traveled a lot in Texas.

349

00:40:47.220 --> 00:40:48.180

Carolyn Brown: And I love it.

350

00:40:50.940 --> 00:40:52.860

Lisa from ProWritingAid: yeah I can really feel that in your.

351

00:40:53.070 --> 00:40:56.970

Lisa from ProWritingAid: Books that sense of setting you know, like, I was saying, I feel like it's really.

352

00:40:57.330 --> 00:41:12.750

Lisa from ProWritingAid: Clear that you have any i've got someone who's asking here, if you have any advice for writing a really descriptive story that really sets that setting and lets people feel it and they she or he says they want to make sure that their readers can taste their story to.

353

00:41:15.780 --> 00:41:18.150

Carolyn Brown: Give them detail but don't give it to them.

354

00:41:20.010 --> 00:41:22.680

Carolyn Brown: In big big big plops.

355

00:41:23.520 --> 00:41:41.190

Carolyn Brown: Okay detail detail should be given in through the characters eyes on through the characters emotion, or the failing if you start give well I had one ladies tell me that she had written 40 pages and so far should done was described the blue vomits and.

356

00:41:41.190 --> 00:41:41.880

Texas.

357

00:41:43.980 --> 00:41:47.220

Carolyn Brown: Down off that greater on the first page, let me tell you.

358

00:41:47.940 --> 00:42:08.460

Carolyn Brown: yeah be sure to let the reader feel and touch through the characters eyes, not through their eyes, not through my eyes, they don't care what carolyn sees they want to see what truly saw and felt so that would be my advice there.

359

00:42:09.000 --> 00:42:10.950

Lisa from ProWritingAid: that's great advice okay.

360

00:42:11.760 --> 00:42:13.560

Lisa from ProWritingAid: Oh man, we have a lot of questions here.

361

00:42:13.920 --> 00:42:15.540

Lisa from ProWritingAid: And so, he says.

362

00:42:15.570 --> 00:42:17.910

Lisa from ProWritingAid: With over 100 books, how do you.

363

00:42:18.000 --> 00:42:19.230

Lisa from ProWritingAid: Keep your books theme.

364

00:42:19.230 --> 00:42:21.960

Lisa from ProWritingAid: Fresh and not redundant and not.

365

00:42:22.020 --> 00:42:23.010

Not repetitive.

366

00:42:24.840 --> 00:42:25.470

Carolyn Brown: well.

367

00:42:26.880 --> 00:42:32.250

Carolyn Brown: Each character, has a different story and a different emotional level.

368

00:42:35.250 --> 00:42:37.410

Carolyn Brown: Each story has a different setting.

369

00:42:38.430 --> 00:42:43.680

Carolyn Brown: If you're going down the road I don't care where you live in London, like you do, or in Oklahoma like I do.

370

00:42:45.300 --> 00:42:52.740

Carolyn Brown: You pass hundreds of homes each person and then House has a story to tell.

371

00:42:54.030 --> 00:43:10.830

Carolyn Brown: So, each one would have their own set of emotion that reactions to what they have felt or seen and their experiences, it would be totally different than the last books characters.

372

00:43:12.450 --> 00:43:19.140

Carolyn Brown: The hope chest dealt with a bipolar grandmother who didn't even realize she was bipolar.

373

00:43:20.220 --> 00:43:25.110

Carolyn Brown: and her three grandkids come home to take care of

things and.

374

00:43:26.580 --> 00:43:27.150

Carolyn Brown: So.

375

00:43:28.470 --> 00:43:37.890

Carolyn Brown: They have a different set of emotions than in the hummingbird line, why were one of the characters is a very sensitive.

376

00:43:39.570 --> 00:43:43.110

Carolyn Brown: emotional top shelter girl woman.

377

00:43:44.490 --> 00:43:58.620

Carolyn Brown: Who has been exposed her experience with diet right and how did you deal with it, so you just have different people dealing with different things, and when you tell your story it's not the same anymore.

378

00:44:01.230 --> 00:44:05.160

Lisa from ProWritingAid: So one question that I have around that is like I read.

379

00:44:06.480 --> 00:44:11.370

Lisa from ProWritingAid: small town rumors recently where um, which is about a.

380

00:44:11.430 --> 00:44:13.590

Lisa from ProWritingAid: woman who comes home from New York.

381

00:44:13.800 --> 00:44:20.400

Lisa from ProWritingAid: Having had a failed marriage and you sort of reveal backstory through out instead of.

382

00:44:20.430 --> 00:44:24.420

Lisa from ProWritingAid: You know, you know she doesn't get off the bus and you're not like here's everything that happened to her.

383

00:44:24.600 --> 00:44:27.420

Lisa from ProWritingAid: So how do you how do you know where to pepper than.

384

00:44:29.220 --> 00:44:34.830

Carolyn Brown: Just when she's failing it when she's flashback and seeing that and when something.

385

00:44:35.850 --> 00:44:42.840

Carolyn Brown: on the street reminds her of something that happened to her in New York or or whenever she saw.

386

00:44:44.160 --> 00:44:47.880

Carolyn Brown: When she goes home and she remembers that she didn't really like it there.

387

00:44:49.170 --> 00:44:50.550

Carolyn Brown: And it is just.

388

00:44:51.720 --> 00:44:56.370

Carolyn Brown: What she is feeling, so you pepper in the backstory at that time.

389

00:44:58.320 --> 00:45:05.460

Carolyn Brown: You can't you treat it one way, you can treat rotting is as a play you're watching on Broadway.

390

00:45:07.110 --> 00:45:11.490

Carolyn Brown: You have X one X two X three in the curtain falls.

391

00:45:12.810 --> 00:45:15.090

Carolyn Brown: You don't give away everything in act one.

392

00:45:16.110 --> 00:45:16.470

Carolyn Brown: You.

393

00:45:18.330 --> 00:45:21.720

Carolyn Brown: A person told me one time, you have to make your reader work for it.

394

00:45:23.520 --> 00:45:32.040

Carolyn Brown: You don't give them everything and say okay Now this is going to happen, you make them work for Michael keep reading keep their interest.

395

00:45:33.360 --> 00:45:36.060

Lisa from ProWritingAid: So does, that is, I give them assume that.

396

00:45:36.930 --> 00:45:40.650

Lisa from ProWritingAid: You know this is a reader it feels good to figure things out and it feels good to.

397

00:45:40.650 --> 00:45:43.860

Lisa from ProWritingAid: put together right and you feel like you're part of it.

398

00:45:45.120 --> 00:45:48.180

Carolyn Brown: Yes, that's absolutely right.

399

00:45:49.650 --> 00:45:58.170

Carolyn Brown: You feel like you, are when I when I start writing I don't know that character much better than my reader does.

400

00:45:59.370 --> 00:46:07.350

Carolyn Brown: So I have to introduce the character tell my reader what that character his physical appearance is basically.

401

00:46:08.850 --> 00:46:15.540

Carolyn Brown: Then I have to get to know the character's backstory and get to know that character's.

402

00:46:16.680 --> 00:46:25.500

Carolyn Brown: Why she does what she does or he does what she does then work toward let my reader know what I have just found out.

403

00:46:27.690 --> 00:46:29.910

Lisa from ProWritingAid: There you're discovering it along with your readers.

404

00:46:29.940 --> 00:46:30.690

As you're reading.

405

00:46:31.710 --> 00:46:42.540

Carolyn Brown: Right so it's like walking into the room, with a stranger that you don't know that stranger and they're not going to tell you they don't feel comfortable enough to tell you.

406

00:46:43.080 --> 00:46:50.880

Carolyn Brown: everything that happened to them when they were five years old or six years old or 10 years old, you have to get to know them.

407

00:46:52.020 --> 00:46:54.420

Carolyn Brown: And that takes time and patience.

408

00:46:56.010 --> 00:46:56.370

Lisa from ProWritingAid: yeah.

409

00:46:56.400 --> 00:46:56.730

Okay.

410

00:46:58.380 --> 00:47:00.150

Lisa from ProWritingAid: i'm okay i'm.

411

00:47:00.480 --> 00:47:01.980

Lisa from ProWritingAid: Ingrid well actually quite a few.

412

00:47:01.980 --> 00:47:05.370

Lisa from ProWritingAid: People in the questions are asking about your daily writing routine.

413

00:47:07.170 --> 00:47:07.950

Carolyn Brown: alright.

414

00:47:09.570 --> 00:47:13.800

Carolyn Brown: I had back down a little bit from 5000 words a day six days a week.

415

00:47:17.550 --> 00:47:21.750

Lisa from ProWritingAid: But until recently, you that was that was the goal you set yourself.

416

00:47:22.470 --> 00:47:25.170

Carolyn Brown: Yes, now my mother.

417

00:47:26.490 --> 00:47:29.190

Carolyn Brown: I think she got this from a traveling salesman.

418

00:47:30.720 --> 00:47:34.800

Carolyn Brown: But the thing was you can eat an elephant a bite at a time.

419

00:47:36.120 --> 00:47:48.030

Carolyn Brown: So consider your elephant 5000 words so you get up in the morning and you write 1000 words before you had breakfast.

420

00:47:49.950 --> 00:47:56.730

Carolyn Brown: that's your goal, then you go and you eat breakfast and you have now that's not before you have coffee that's just.

421

00:47:57.690 --> 00:47:59.070

Lisa from ProWritingAid: crazy yeah yeah.

422

00:48:02.730 --> 00:48:16.950

Carolyn Brown: Then you go and you have breakfast and you come back and you write 2000 words and then you go and you have lunch and you come back and all you have to do this right 2000 more words in your day is done that's good.

423

00:48:17.820 --> 00:48:22.650

Lisa from ProWritingAid: But I mean that's a big job and that's that's why so what were you telling me, you know.

424

00:48:22.770 --> 00:48:24.300

Lisa from ProWritingAid: Until recently, you were putting.

425

00:48:24.300 --> 00:48:26.100

Lisa from ProWritingAid: out five six books, a.

426

00:48:26.100 --> 00:48:32.370

Carolyn Brown: Year, yes, at least five to six one year I put out eight books and three novels.

427

00:48:34.350 --> 00:48:37.980

Lisa from ProWritingAid: that's bananas everyone who's watching this you don't have to do, eight books, a year.

428

00:48:38.370 --> 00:48:44.520

Lisa from ProWritingAid: But I love the idea of setting good goals for yourself, and you have this much before breakfast and this much and.

429

00:48:44.820 --> 00:48:54.480

Lisa from ProWritingAid: You know, breaking it into bite size, well done over the bite size for you, but most full size pieces and throughout the day is makes it, you can get the job done eventually.

430

00:48:55.590 --> 00:49:04.050

Carolyn Brown: Right, so I think here that says how many pages per book I write 300 page books 90,002 90 200,000 words.

431

00:49:05.370 --> 00:49:11.400

Lisa from ProWritingAid: And do you ever if somebody is asking if you ever work on more than one, at a time, or you deepen one.

432

00:49:13.140 --> 00:49:14.070

Carolyn Brown: tunnel vision.

433

00:49:14.580 --> 00:49:15.000

Lisa from ProWritingAid: And I was.

434

00:49:16.050 --> 00:49:18.390

Carolyn Brown: One book and less edits come in.

435

00:49:18.990 --> 00:49:31.740

Carolyn Brown: I can easily be working on a book and have first round and it's a one book copy edits on a second one in something else on the third one, I just line them up as to when the due dates are and finish them off, but the.

436

00:49:33.450 --> 00:49:33.900

Carolyn Brown: The.

437

00:49:35.250 --> 00:49:38.730

Carolyn Brown: essential thing, the one that i'm working on is one book at a time.

438

00:49:39.480 --> 00:49:46.890

Carolyn Brown: To kind of be the creative part it's just tunnel vision work on that book finish it then I go to the next one.

439

00:49:47.670 --> 00:49:49.740

Lisa from ProWritingAid: But Martin says, do you ever have a problem.

440

00:49:49.920 --> 00:49:52.890

Lisa from ProWritingAid: A with no ideas when you sit down at your table or.

441

00:49:52.980 --> 00:49:56.130

Lisa from ProWritingAid: or finding the words to fill a 5000 words a day.

442

00:49:57.420 --> 00:49:58.080

Carolyn Brown: Oh no.

443

00:49:58.680 --> 00:49:58.890

Though.

444

00:50:01.110 --> 00:50:02.700

Carolyn Brown: It might not be good writing.

445

00:50:06.210 --> 00:50:13.590

Carolyn Brown: Nora Roberts told us one time that it doesn't you don't have to write good writing every day you just have to write.

446

00:50:14.160 --> 00:50:14.910

Carolyn Brown: and always.

447

00:50:15.270 --> 00:50:17.640

Carolyn Brown: Bad robbing you can't fix nothing.

448

00:50:18.570 --> 00:50:20.430

Lisa from ProWritingAid: yeah so important.

449

00:50:21.510 --> 00:50:35.790

Carolyn Brown: yeah noticed that have lived by that rule and it's not hard to find the words if you're in your character's head sometimes it's hard for me to remember that.

450

00:50:37.170 --> 00:50:43.230

Carolyn Brown: it's not just dialogue, I have to break up the dialogue with some action or some.

451

00:50:44.370 --> 00:50:45.240

Carolyn Brown: description.

452

00:50:46.020 --> 00:50:50.460

Carolyn Brown: or tell how the person is failing and that's where that developmental editing comes in.

453

00:50:51.420 --> 00:50:54.810

Lisa from ProWritingAid: But it's dialogue your happy place like if you could, would you just dial it.

454

00:50:56.550 --> 00:50:56.910

Carolyn Brown: back.

455

00:50:59.340 --> 00:51:06.570

Lisa from ProWritingAid: I feel like you're a chatter I feel like you could chat and all day long and so maybe that all comes out in you, in your writing.

456

00:51:07.380 --> 00:51:09.300

Carolyn Brown: Right right, it does.

457

00:51:10.200 --> 00:51:16.170

Carolyn Brown: But i've got good editors and they'll tell me how you got too much dialogue care let's do something else.

458

00:51:16.860 --> 00:51:22.140

Lisa from ProWritingAid: So what do you do when you come to the end of the day and it's just one of those days, where it was just bad.

459

00:51:22.230 --> 00:51:25.200

Lisa from ProWritingAid: Writing do you do edit at all as you're going along.

460

00:51:25.230 --> 00:51:27.360

Lisa from ProWritingAid: Are you just fully creative process.

461

00:51:27.570 --> 00:51:28.890

Lisa from ProWritingAid: Now tell me how that works.

462

00:51:29.580 --> 00:51:33.810

Carolyn Brown: I get up the next morning and I go over what I wrote the day before.

463

00:51:34.710 --> 00:51:35.700

Carolyn Brown: Okay, and then i'll.

464

00:51:35.910 --> 00:51:43.710

Carolyn Brown: A lot of times I will save and at that point, how

you've got five pages of dialogue it's time you've got to go in and break that up or.

465

00:51:45.660 --> 00:51:54.120

Carolyn Brown: it's, this is just a bad scene, I want to redo it so most of the time, I read what I wrote the day before, before I continue.

466

00:51:55.740 --> 00:51:56.970

Lisa from ProWritingAid: Okay, and do you often make a lot.

467

00:51:56.970 --> 00:52:04.710

Lisa from ProWritingAid: of changes there and go back and like as part of your 5000 sometimes is a chunk of that going back and rewriting the things that you read the day before.

468

00:52:06.540 --> 00:52:25.920

Carolyn Brown: No lot of times I have to have to be careful not to make the chapter too long, that I would have to sometimes I would, if I add quite a bit to it, I will go in and make that two chapters, rather than one chapter, so no it's it's pretty much just the process.

469

00:52:26.400 --> 00:52:28.290

Lisa from ProWritingAid: I love it, I mean, I feel, like everybody has.

470

00:52:28.290 --> 00:52:32.310

Lisa from ProWritingAid: That cycle and for some people it's longer they write something and then they edited and then they.

471

00:52:32.310 --> 00:52:35.820

Lisa from ProWritingAid: go forward and for some people that's a day for some people that's.

472

00:52:36.150 --> 00:52:38.160

Lisa from ProWritingAid: A, paragraph for some people that's an hour and.

473

00:52:38.190 --> 00:52:41.190

Lisa from ProWritingAid: For people that are doing national novel writing month it's a month.

474

00:52:41.730 --> 00:52:43.590

Lisa from ProWritingAid: And everybody needs to find their.

475

00:52:43.860 --> 00:52:44.850

Lisa from ProWritingAid: rhythm right.

476

00:52:45.960 --> 00:52:48.780

Carolyn Brown: Right whatever works for you don't.

477

00:52:50.340 --> 00:52:52.380

Carolyn Brown: don't fix it if it ain't broke.

478

00:52:53.970 --> 00:53:01.080

Lisa from ProWritingAid: yeah and it's different for everyone, and so you know 5000 words doesn't feel right for you or if you're editing cycle feels different than.

479

00:53:01.560 --> 00:53:03.090

Lisa from ProWritingAid: You know, everybody finds their.

480

00:53:04.200 --> 00:53:05.430

Lisa from ProWritingAid: Something that's doable.

481

00:53:05.640 --> 00:53:08.160

Lisa from ProWritingAid: there's a few people that are talking about and.

482

00:53:09.810 --> 00:53:22.620

Lisa from ProWritingAid: For people that have you know, a day job and or kids a couple people in here and talking about having kids how, what do you any advice for helping them get the the words done when they have a busy schedule and other responsibilities.

483

00:53:24.750 --> 00:53:27.960

Carolyn Brown: Well, I didn't start writing until my kids were grown and go.

484

00:53:30.720 --> 00:53:32.310

Carolyn Brown: I have a friend, though, that.

485

00:53:34.710 --> 00:53:36.990

Carolyn Brown: When she was working corporate.

486

00:53:38.880 --> 00:53:44.400

Carolyn Brown: She got up at three o'clock every morning, while it was quiet and she wrote for two or three hours.

487

00:53:45.420 --> 00:53:57.330

Carolyn Brown: And to this day she still gets up at three o'clock every morning, even though she's retired and she writes two or three hours, and then the rest of the days hours but.

488

00:53:59.220 --> 00:54:01.410

Carolyn Brown: I don't know I haven't had to do that.

489

00:54:02.790 --> 00:54:13.710

Carolyn Brown: right with kids now I did a few times now, for two years, I kept my little two year old granddaughter who wasn't very healthy, so I.

490

00:54:15.480 --> 00:54:19.170

Carolyn Brown: wrote with her in the room, someone asked me one time.

491

00:54:20.490 --> 00:54:22.170

Carolyn Brown: How do you ride a sex scene.

492

00:54:23.460 --> 00:54:30.150

Carolyn Brown: And nowadays i'm not watching as many, thank goodness, because how many times, can you ride a sex scene and make it good but anyway.

493

00:54:31.050 --> 00:54:34.950

Carolyn Brown: I didn't write a spec same with a two year old having a tea party under my desk.

494

00:54:39.090 --> 00:54:47.160

Lisa from ProWritingAid: yeah I felt a little bit of that when I was preparing for this, and I was reading some of the steamy or books on my to read list with my kids running in and out of the room.

495

00:54:47.520 --> 00:54:48.090

Lisa from ProWritingAid: Is this like.

496

00:54:48.120 --> 00:54:51.960

Lisa from ProWritingAid: yeah awkwardness there, but you know those two things can coexist right.

497

00:54:52.560 --> 00:54:54.390

Carolyn Brown: Right right to different boxes.

498

00:54:54.420 --> 00:54:55.740

Lisa from ProWritingAid: just keep it in two different but.

499

00:54:56.370 --> 00:55:10.440

Carolyn Brown: yeah I did I yeah I did a book club for a group in Dallas and there was a lady there, and the question was how old were you when you read your first romance book and she said, I was.

500

00:55:11.160 --> 00:55:23.610

Carolyn Brown: 12 and I said you mean your dad let you read romance at 12 she said yes, we had the five page rule he kissed her 12345 turn the pages.

501

00:55:24.090 --> 00:55:24.990

And then start reading.

502

00:55:30.840 --> 00:55:36.600

Carolyn Brown: So if the kids are in the room, and looking over your shoulder just take a star and start turning pages.

503

00:55:38.340 --> 00:55:42.450

Lisa from ProWritingAid: Okay, great okay so we're running out of time um.

504

00:55:44.070 --> 00:55:57.780

Lisa from ProWritingAid: So a lot of the people that are that are here today, are you know sort of on their first writing journey and then they're just beginning to figure out how to put it all together and how to plot and how to you know find that time to write.

505

00:55:58.170 --> 00:56:03.120

Lisa from ProWritingAid: What um, what do you wish, you had known when you were starting out that would have helped you.

506

00:56:04.200 --> 00:56:04.590

Carolyn Brown: That would be.

507

00:56:05.940 --> 00:56:06.660

Carolyn Brown: More about.

508

00:56:07.020 --> 00:56:07.920

Carolyn Brown: Point of View.

509

00:56:08.970 --> 00:56:09.420

Carolyn Brown: Keep your.

510

00:56:10.440 --> 00:56:20.520

Carolyn Brown: Keep your point of view, true, you know I didn't know enough about that that would have been one thing that I would have wished i'd known more about and.

511

00:56:22.920 --> 00:56:23.340

Carolyn Brown: Maybe.

512

00:56:23.430 --> 00:56:26.490

Lisa from ProWritingAid: Just tell me a little bit more about that, how do you keep your point of view, true.

513

00:56:28.020 --> 00:56:32.610

Carolyn Brown: I get into my character's head and I don't leave until I change point of view.

514

00:56:35.430 --> 00:56:39.150

Carolyn Brown: You can't be in one person's you can head hop.

515

00:56:40.560 --> 00:56:42.900

Carolyn Brown: And I was guilty of that in the beginning.

516

00:56:45.270 --> 00:56:49.920

Carolyn Brown: You you've just you've got to keep it true if you are in trudy's point of view.

517

00:56:50.820 --> 00:56:58.620

Carolyn Brown: You can't jump over here in hillary's point of view and tell how she felt about something it's got to stay true.

518

00:56:59.250 --> 00:57:13.740

Carolyn Brown: And that's what I wish I would have known more about i've had to i've learned that through the years with help of some very good editors so but that I think that would have been one of the things.

519

00:57:14.790 --> 00:57:17.220

Carolyn Brown: The other I would have liked to have.

520

00:57:19.200 --> 00:57:27.270

Carolyn Brown: known that just because you sell the first deck doesn't mean you need to buy a dress to go to the red carpet for the movies on it.

521

00:57:30.120 --> 00:57:30.660

Lisa from ProWritingAid: again.

522

00:57:32.370 --> 00:57:34.410

Lisa from ProWritingAid: So don't don't put all your eggs in.

523

00:57:34.440 --> 00:57:36.150

Lisa from ProWritingAid: The single book basket.

524

00:57:37.050 --> 00:57:38.670

Carolyn Brown: No, no, no don't do that.

525

00:57:40.170 --> 00:57:59.370

Carolyn Brown: So that would have been one thing I would have liked to have realized that you have to build a readership and each genre is different, so if you have a wonderful readership and say paranormal our historical our cowboy romance.

526

00:58:00.720 --> 00:58:04.470

Carolyn Brown: And you say okay now i'm going to hop over here to this other genre.

527

00:58:06.150 --> 00:58:14.820

Carolyn Brown: it's going to take you five to 10 books to rebuild a readership in that genre so when you're first beginning.

528

00:58:16.230 --> 00:58:33.810

Carolyn Brown: I was at a conference once and I was standing behind a little girl, and again as a little girl and i'm 73 years old, almost so to me 50s a little girl, but I was telling her and she was telling someone, I want to.

529

00:58:35.250 --> 00:58:43.080

Carolyn Brown: i've got a book in paranormal i've got one and contemporary i've got one in and historical i'm gonna you know do

all this.

530

00:58:43.410 --> 00:58:58.590

Carolyn Brown: I said, let me give you a word of advice that you can take it and put it in the toilet if you want to honey, but you pick out the one you like the best and you build a readership in that, then you can go to someone else.

531

00:59:01.050 --> 00:59:11.130

Carolyn Brown: You can't you have to have a readership I feel like even after 20 women's fiction books, maybe more I haven't counted them lightly.

532

00:59:13.380 --> 00:59:18.240

Carolyn Brown: Each time, one comes out my readership gets bigger and that's what you want.

533

00:59:19.380 --> 00:59:22.260

Carolyn Brown: So I wish I understood, a little more about readership.

534

00:59:23.460 --> 00:59:29.340

Lisa from ProWritingAid: Right so find your people find the ones that love what you do and go go deep into one.

535

00:59:29.550 --> 00:59:30.330

Lisa from ProWritingAid: Whichever one we.

536

00:59:31.830 --> 00:59:32.850

Carolyn Brown: stay with it.

537

00:59:33.900 --> 00:59:41.340

Lisa from ProWritingAid: Wonderful we're out of time, I still have a ton of questions here and I didn't know if you can see the chat but everyone is saying thank you.

538

00:59:41.400 --> 00:59:54.150

Lisa from ProWritingAid: carolyn for isn't that amazing all these wonderful comments there, it makes it such it makes such a difference to all these people who are just starting out to hear from someone who's been down this road, and who.

539

00:59:54.840 --> 01:00:04.620

Lisa from ProWritingAid: You know, has learned all the things that

that everybody here needs to learn, so I really appreciate you spending this hour with us and sharing your experience.

540

01:00:05.550 --> 01:00:17.970

Carolyn Brown: Well it's been a wonderful hour and I appreciate you inviting me and for all those folks that are out there, keep after it darlings you can't you cannot sell if you don't write.

541

01:00:19.980 --> 01:00:20.520

Carolyn Brown: and

542

01:00:20.940 --> 01:00:27.720

Carolyn Brown: My my advice is always been two things right don't whine.

543

01:00:29.490 --> 01:00:31.770

Carolyn Brown: Oh, you can about it all.

544

01:00:33.180 --> 01:00:39.300

Carolyn Brown: and say oh I can't write today, I have to do this, I have to go do that.

545

01:00:41.490 --> 01:00:53.040

Carolyn Brown: Right don't whine get out there and write every day write something, and it can be bad it doesn't matter about my head just right don't give up there's always hope.

546

01:00:55.410 --> 01:01:03.780

Lisa from ProWritingAid: I mean those are perfect way to end this session Thank you so much carolyn Thank you everybody for coming along we'll see you at the next session coming up we've got.

547

01:01:04.800 --> 01:01:15.600

Lisa from ProWritingAid: Your five plotting non negotiable with the amazing Dana pittman you've got an hour off to go have a snack have a lunch and we'll see you back here for them Thank you again carolyn really appreciate it.

548

01:01:16.560 --> 01:01:17.190

Carolyn Brown: bye bye.