



## CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOPS FROM ANNE GOODWIN



### **The art of the 99-word story**

Do you have a story to tell but fear you lack the skill, stamina or patience to fill a page? Perhaps it would feel less daunting if you had to find only 99 words. Are you an experienced writer so in love with language you struggle to cut your stories down to size? The discipline of the 99-word story will hone the editing skills you need.

Alongside an international group of enthusiasts, Anne Goodwin has produced a 99-word story roughly once a week since 2014. Join her to dissect some of those stories and produce one of your own.

**Duration: 2 hours**

**Suitable for writers at all levels of experience or none.**

**Resources: helpful if participants can work on a word processor (for ease of monitoring the word-count) but not essential.**

### **Creating a fictional therapist**

Have you ever wondered how realistic the therapists you encounter in fiction really are? Have you ever wanted to create one of your own but been unsure how to go about it?

Through discussion of therapy facts and fictions and analysis of extracts from novels, Anne Goodwin will introduce you to the pleasures and pitfalls of fictional therapists and therapy. She will guide you through the various roles a therapist can play in a story and steer you away from the errors authors commonly make. She will show you how you can write a therapy story in only 99 words.

As a former clinical psychologist, Anne Goodwin has experienced therapy from both sides of the “couch”. As a book blogger, she has reviewed over eighty novels featuring a fictional therapist, and has published articles in print and online magazines.

**Duration: 2-3 hours**

**Suitable for all writers: no prior knowledge or experience of therapy is required.**

## **Writing sensitively about mental health matters in fiction**

How can writers capture the reality of mental disturbance without perpetuating negative stereotypes such as “the mad woman in the attic” in Charlotte Brontë’s *Jane Eyre*? Through discussions of texts, a myths and facts quiz and, of course, some time to write, this workshop assists participants to approach mental health issues with empathy and sensitivity.

As a former clinical psychologist, Anne Goodwin has over 20 years’ experience of working directly with people with serious mental health problems, and training others in relevant attitudes and skills. As an author, her debut novel, *Sugar and Snails*, addresses self-harm and her second novel, *Underneath*, is narrated from the point of view of a mentally disordered offender. Her latest novel, *Matilda Windsor Is Coming Home*, is set in a long-stay psychiatric hospital in the process of closure.

**Duration: 4 hours**

**Recommended for those with some experience of creative writing.**

## **Writing about diversity from the outside in**

Many writers want to reflect a diversity of identities and experience among our characters but fear accusations of cultural appropriation or offending people for getting it wrong.

Drawing on her background in psychology and experience of publishing a novel about a woman with a marginalised identity, Anne Goodwin’s workshop provides the building blocks to write empathically about “the other” from the outside in. Through presentations, writing exercises and discussion, the workshop explores concepts of difference and offers a framework of empathy, curiosity and humility to reduce stereotyping and create diverse characters who live and breathe on the page.

Anne Goodwin’s debut novel, *Sugar and Snails*, was shortlisted for the Polari First Book Prize and highly praised by readers with a similar lived experience to the main character.

**Duration: 2-4 hours**

**Recommended for those with some experience of writing.**

**Resource requirements: an overhead projector (for PowerPoint) is useful for this workshop but not essential.**

## Reading as a writer

Every writer is a reader first, learning our craft through indulging in what we enjoy. With a little more focus on the building blocks of a strong story, we can get more from our reading without turning it into a chore.

In this workshop, we'll explore some of the questions we can ask ourselves as we turn the pages in order to help us write the kind of books we ourselves would want to read.

Anne Goodwin is the author of three novels and a short story collection published by Inspired Quill. She has reviewed on her blog, *Anecdotal*, almost every book she has read in the past six years.

**Duration: 2 hours**

**Suitable for fiction and creative non-fiction writers at all levels.**

**Materials: bring along a book you've recently enjoyed.**

***Fees on application (reduced rates for smaller groups and nonprofits).***

***Get in touch: <https://annegoodwin.weebly.com/author-talks.html>***



Anne Goodwin brings her experience as an author, book blogger and former clinical psychologist to deliver entertaining and informative talks and workshops for readers and writers.

Inspired Quill

The graphic features a circular portrait of Anne Goodwin on the left. To her right is a quote in white text. Below the quote are four book covers: 'Becoming Someone', 'SUGAR AND SNAILS', 'NEVER DEATH', and 'Matilda Windsor is coming home'. The 'Inspired Quill' logo is in the bottom left corner.