

Pride & Point of View

Abigail Reynolds

There is only one wrong
way to write...

There is only one wrong
way to write...
... and that is not to
write at all.

IT IS A TRUTH
UNIVERSALLY
ACKNOWLEDGED,
THAT A SINGLE
MAN IN
POSSESSION OF...



~~A TIME MACHINE~~ ~~A DARK, BROODING, SENSUALITY~~ A TALKING HORSE

A MAP OF BURIED TREASURE? ~~SCANDALOUS DANCE MOVES~~

A GOOD FORTUNE

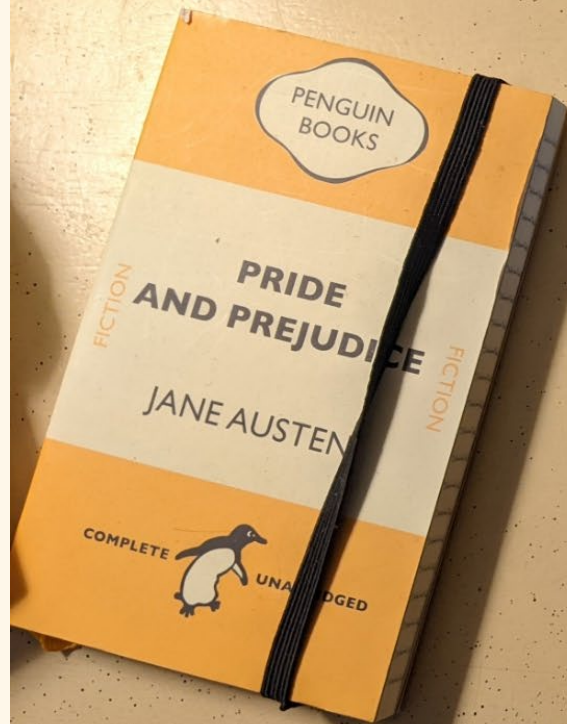
~~UNSPEAKABLY WICKED DESIRES~~

A PLAN TO MURDER THE KING

AN ENCHANTED ~~THREE~~ THE FINEST TOPIARY IN THE COUNTY?

... MUST BE
IN WANT OF
A WIFE.





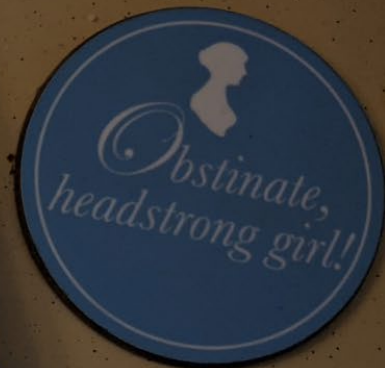
escape his apparently intolerable company
If only he knew what he had done wrong

* * *
What was wrong with her?
often Elizabeth reminded herself of the
truth she kept softening towards Darcy.
And each time she let him close, it became
harder to keep her distance.

It was as if she had known how she would be like, sharing his bed,
eating with him, having him be the only
being together the wrong for days, as if
had hardly been alone for longer than a
few hours, before he was friendly, and

Now he was her new world of Pemberley. He was the only person
who knew her at all. He was the only person
an effort to be kind to her. He had to give
him credit for that. But this was no reason
to stumble into love with him.

And that was especially when he intended
to die in a few months, leaving her bereft.
If you had been a normal marriage of convenience
she could have hoped that his affection for her





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"I'm trying to get Tom to join the local writers' critique group, but he still refuses to admit that he has a comma abuse problem."

WEEKLY WRITING DATE

THE NEBULA CONFERENCE ONLINE



Your host this week: **Emma Mieko Candon**

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Point of View

- First Person
- Second Person
- Third Person
 - Omniscient – can see all things in the story
 - Limited – can only see things through eyes of one character
 - Single character
 - Roaming/Multiple

Omniscient vs. Head-hopping

Head-hopping switches between different character's perspectives and third person omniscient is just one all-knowing narrator. The narrator has one voice and does not adopt the voices or take the views of the characters.

- Don't switch points of view in the middle of a scene.
- When writing a scene from Darcy's perspective, don't include information that only Elizabeth knows.
- When writing a scene in Darcy's's POV, don't relate Elizabeth's thoughts or feelings. Elizabeth can express her thoughts or feelings verbally or Darcy can infer them from her behavior.

Headhopping

Feeling suddenly shy as she realized her state of undress, she said, "Of course, I understand."

Recognizing her embarrassment, he took her nightgown and robe from where they had fallen and handed them to her. "I will return in a minute," he said, heading for his dressing room. He emerged shortly wearing a workman-like outfit of shirt and trousers. She was already out of bed, as decent as she could make herself, and he took her into his arms. "I am so very sorry to leave you like this, Elizabeth. My man Wilkins is without, and I will ask him to assist you in returning to your room - he has already realized you are here, and he is the soul of discretion." Seeing her blush furiously, he added, "Not to worry, he approves of you. Please remember that I love you more than life itself."

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Narrative distance is the perceived distance between readers and characters and between readers and story events

Narrative Distance

1. It was winter of the year 1853. A large man stepped out of a doorway.
2. Henry J. Warburton had never much cared for snowstorms.
3. Henry hated snowstorms.
4. God how he hated these damn snowstorms.
5. Under your collar, down inside your shoes, freezing and plugging up your miserable soul.

- examples by John Gardner, *The Art of Fiction*

Why should I use Deep POV/close narrative distance?

- Make your story more compelling
- Create a deeper emotional connection between reader and character
- Make scenes feel more visceral and vivid
- Readers love it. Outside the JAFF world, readers expect it

Filter Words

- Filter words are extra words that filter the scene through a character.
- Filter words make writing weaker and create more narrative distance.
- Common ones include *saw*, *knew*, *heard*, *thought*, and *noticed*.

Removing filter words adds immediacy and power

- **Filtered**: He saw the man take out a knife.
- **Unfiltered**: The man took out a knife.

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- Filtered**: She thought the room smelt strange, almost sour.
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- Filtered**: She thought the room smelt strange, almost sour.
- Unfiltered**: The room smelt strange, almost sour.

- Filtered**: She wondered if he'd seen her.
- Unfiltered**: Had he seen her?

Georgiana watched his retreating back, wondering if he would ever think her old enough to trust.

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Would he ever think her old enough to trust?

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Still trapped! It must have been over an hour. Would she ever have a chance to escape?

Elizabeth took a moment to observe her sister deep in conversation with Bingley, whose face displayed such delight and pleasure that it was clear that his heart was as much hers as ever. She wondered how the gentleman beside her was feeling about the developments in that regard, and whether he would support Bingley's desires this time, or again seek to undermine the match.

Elizabeth took a moment to **observe** her sister deep in conversation with Bingley, whose face displayed such delight and pleasure that it was clear that his heart was as much hers as ever. She **wondered** how the gentleman beside her was feeling about the developments in that regard, and whether he would support Bingley's desires this time, or again seek to undermine the match.

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Her sister was deep in conversation with Bingley, whose face displayed such delight and pleasure that it was clear his heart was as much hers as ever. What did the gentleman beside her feel about these developments? Would he support Bingley's desires this time or again seek to undermine the match?

"I enjoy taking walks and admiring the scenery," she said, then wished she could retract her words as she realized that her reference to walks might be considered a reminder of their time at Rosings.

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“I enjoy taking walks and admiring the scenery,” she said, then her cheeks grew hot. Oh, why had she not considered her words? He must think she was reminding him of their time at Rosings.

"Thank you for sharing it with me," he said softly, noting a look of warmth in her eyes which made all of his resolutions that much more difficult to keep. In search of a distraction, he noticed the ribbons of her bonnet blowing gently in the wind.

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“Thank you for sharing it with me,” he said softly. Her look of warmth made all his resolutions that much more difficult to keep. Better to think of something safer, like the ribbons of her bonnet blowing gently in the wind.

Common Distancing Words

- . he noticed
- . she felt
- . she saw
- . he heard
- . she remembered
- . he knew
- . she looked at
- . she decided
- . he thought
- . she wondered
- . he watched
- . she realized
- . he noted
- . she experienced

Later, Darcy reflected that he could never have been prepared for the first moment he saw her. Her left foot tapped the tiled floor, and he noticed a tiny, amber cross on a gold chain around her slender neck. Her hair, which was the color of autumn leaves, was so thick he thought she might struggle to brush it. It was already half out of its knot, and he noticed that she moved her head around a lot when she talked. She was the right age, and everyone seemed to be addressing her. He knew that this was her. The light from the chandeliers bounced off her creamy skin, and he felt a tightening in his throat. Unused to being disconcerted by another person's appearance, Darcy got himself a glass of wine and did a circle of the room before approaching her.

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Nothing could have prepared Darcy for his first sight of her. Her left foot tapped the tiled floor, and a tiny amber cross on a gold chain circled her slender neck. Her hair, the color of autumn leaves and already falling out of its knot, was so thick she might struggle to brush it. She moved her head around when she talked. She was the right age, and everyone was addressing her. Yes, she had to be the one. The light from the chandeliers bounced off her creamy skin, and his throat tightened. Darcy accepted a glass of wine and circled the room.

Take Home Messages

- Stick to one point of view per scene
- Go deep!
 - Ask internal questions
 - Take out filter words

Darcy thought

Jane wondered

Mr. Bennet thought

Georgiana decided

Elizabeth noticed

Bingley realized

Useful references

Story Sensei Deep Point of View Worksheets by Camy Tang– available on Kindle Unlimited, or 99 cents on Kindle

<http://theeditorsblog.net/2016/07/19/deep-pov-and-narrative-distance-part-1/>

<https://annlaurelkopchik.com/category/deep-pov/>

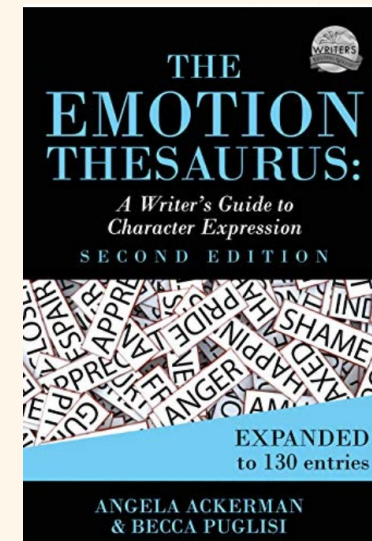
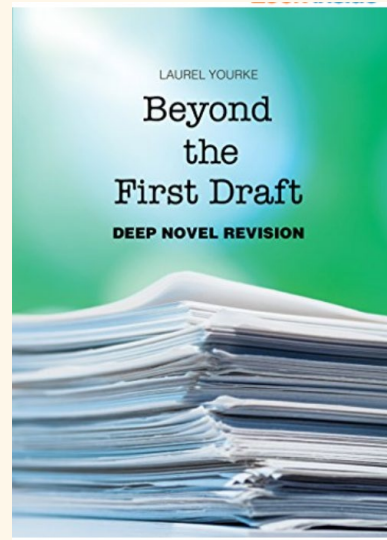
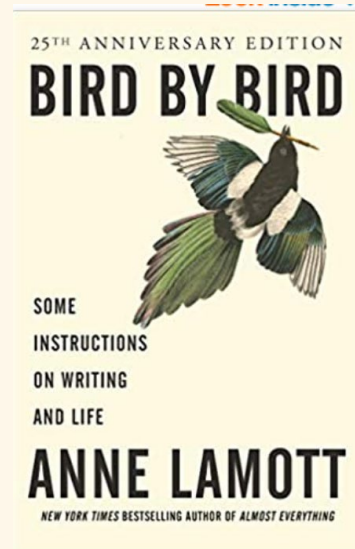
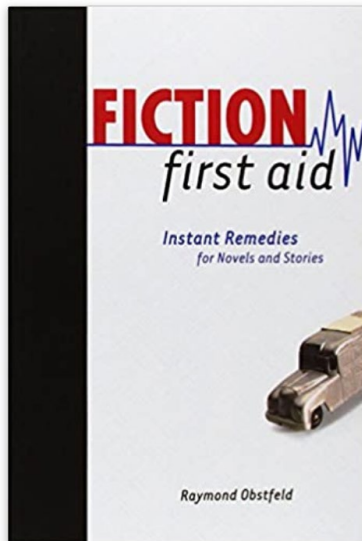
<https://www.louiseharnbyproofreader.com/blog/filter-words-in-fiction-purposeful-inclusion-and-dramatic-restriction>

<https://simplewriting.org/what-are-filter-words/>

<https://annerallen.com/2017/06/filter-words-and-phrases-to-avoid-in-writing/> - includes exercises

Resources

- **Fiction First Aid** by Raymond Obstfeld – a general resource
- **Beyond the First Draft** by Laurel Yourke – a closer look at narrative distance
- **Bird by Bird** by Anne Lamott – about being a writer
- **The Emotion Thesaurus** by Angela Ackerman & Becca Puglisi



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