

# Pre-Convention Program

MONDAY, APRIL 9 - TUESDAY, APRIL 10



Linnea Sinclair

## FOR THE BEGINNER

So you've decided it's time to tackle that book you've harbored deep inside. Where do you start? How do you know what to do? What do agents and editors want? Join bestselling author Linnea Sinclair and her panel of experts as they explore each aspect, from starting glimmer to polished sheen, of that dream book you want to write!

### MONDAY, APRIL 9

#### 11AM — MEET AND GREET BRUNCH

#### 2-4PM — THE BASICS WITH LINNEA SINCLAIR

Linnea will go over everything you need to know about the writing business. Learn the proper formatting of a manuscript, determine manuscript length, discover invaluable rules of grammar and punctuation, find your genre, get the scoop on advances, royalties and sell-thrus, the proper way to submit a manuscript and lots more.

#### 4-6PM — UNDERSTANDING POINT OF VIEW AND VOICE

Should I write in first person or third? Do I have a style? Is my writing unique? Do I have what it takes to tantalize an editor/agent into reading my work? How do I make my words come alive on the page? These questions and more will be answered in this powerhouse session.

### TUESDAY, APRIL 10

#### 8:30-9:30AM — SELF-EDITING

It's a dirty job, but someone has to do it. Some topics that will be discussed are: Should I pay for the work? Is there a going rate? How much is the editor's responsibility?

#### 9:30-10:30AM — PLOTTING 101

Am I a pantsier or a plotter? Which style is best for me? Is it better to outline first, write the synopsis first or finish the book? Do I plot alone or with friends? What about plagiarism? Titles? Genres? What must I have to complete a full book, not just a short story? Join us to find out the answers to these frequently asked questions.

#### 10:45AM-12PM — HOOKING YOUR READER

Learn how to get the attention of an editor or agent with your opening paragraph and your first line. Learn what it takes to figure out the best way to present your voice from page one and how to find the perfect opening, one that will set the stage for your entire manuscript.

#### 1-2PM — DIALOGUE: INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL

Learn the art of saying what you mean, and meaning what you say. Discover how to use dialogue to promote action.

Do you tag line or not? Learn how to make your words believable and when enough is enough.

**2-3PM — WHAT AM I WRITING?** The genres today are blurring together and it's getting harder to determine which one you are writing in. Is it a thriller or romantic suspense — or a mystery? If there's a sex scene in my book, can it still be an inspirational romance? What's the difference between women's fiction and romance? What is erotica? Should I self-publish? Do I need an agent? When do I decide what kind of career is right for me?

#### 3-3:45PM — QUERY AND SYNOPSIS

Learn how to write the perfect query and how to tackle the dreaded synopsis. Determine what's the right length synopsis for your book and why you need one. You'll also learn if your synopsis has to be exact and if agents and editors really care about them.

#### 3-3:45PM — REJECTION/BOBBI SMITH

There are promising and constructive rejection letters and then there are "I hated your story" rejection letters. Learn how to avoid the latter and how to embrace the former. Your career depends on it.

#### 4:45-6:30PM — GET THE SCOOP ON THE RAPIDLY CHANGING PUBLISHING INDUSTRY FROM AGENTS & EDITORS

The publishing industry is changing day to day. Find out the various options you have for getting your book published in print or in e-book format. Learn how self-publishing works and if it is right for you. Learn how to seek out an e-publisher that fits your book and your vision of success. But, more importantly, hear how the publishing industry is changing and what you need to know and do if you want to get published in this competitive market. Find out how to take the necessary steps on your road to a successful career. This professional panel will cover everything from e-pub to traditional publishing to what an agent expects from an author to what editors are really looking for in submissions.

**BONUS FOR BEGINNERS: Bring the first five pages of your manuscript and Linnea will arrange to have it critiqued by a published author who is familiar with your genre.**

*NOTE: This program is normally led by bestselling author Judi McCoy who is recovering from a sudden, serious illness. We had hoped she would better in time for April but unfortunately she needs more time to heal. We are delighted and grateful that the incomparable bestseller Linnea Sinclair has graciously agreed to lead the program. She has taught in Judi's Pre-Convention Program for a number of years and knows it well. She promises to make Judi proud!*