

Who Dunit and How to Write it

Tutor: Danuta Reah

Synopsis

Crime fiction is driven by plot. A good crime novel tells a story - one that will convince, grip and absorb the reader. The first part of this workshop explores methods for finding your way into your story and helps you answer questions like How do I get started? How do I structure my story? How much should I reveal and how much should I conceal? We will also look at narrative points of view: first person, third person, one narrator or more.

The location of a novel can often shape it. The second part of the workshop looks at location and how you as a writer can create a sense of place you can share with your readers.

All writers work differently: there is no one correct way to write. Each writer needs to find their own voice. This workshop will explore a variety of approaches to writing in order to help you find yours. There will be opportunities for reading and sharing short extracts in the course of the day.

Danuta Reah

Danuta Reah who also writes as Carla Banks grew up with stories. Her father, a Belarusian cavalry officer, kept his past alive by telling his children stories of his childhood in the forests of Eastern Europe. She lives in South Yorkshire and uses her urban background in her books. The settings range from the tight knit South Yorkshire mining communities to the international stage of new Europe and beyond. Crime – or at least dissent – runs in the family. One of her ancestors, John Woodcock, was hanged, drawn and quartered in 1646 for his religious beliefs.

She has published seven books and several short stories. In 2005, she won the Crime Writers' Association Short Story Dagger for her story **No Flies on Frank**. Her latest book, **Not Safe**, a novella, explores the dangers facing asylum seekers in a South Yorkshire city.