

F A L L 2 0 1 2

# EILEEN FAVORITE

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In late July I met with a book group that included a number of psych nurses. I was a little nervous about how they'd respond to the psych hospital scenes in *The Heroines*. Verdict: they loved them. "You nailed it," one said. Another said, "Best book group ever! I'd never picked the brain of an author before." Every book group I attend has different questions, and this group was especially intrigued by the creative process of writing. I told them how I started the book, put it away for a couple of years, then picked it back up again after two years teaching at-risk middle-school students. They were also interested in the fact that I don't write from an outline, but rather let the work take me where it will.

This fall has been a rapid-fire ascent into schooling for everybody in my family. I'm teaching two classes at the School of the Art Institute: a first-year seminar called Essay Writing: Mind and Memory at work, as well as a Humanities seminar on Jane Austen and the Bronte sisters.

## Novel-in-Progress

### *The Worship of Storms*

#### On page 371

I'd hoped to finish this draft of *The Worship of Storms* by summer's end, but alas, I got close, but not quite. I'm now on page 371 with visions of hitting 400! Then I'll probably go back and mow back a third. But for now, with classes back in session, it's a more gradual process... Even a few pages a week adds up over time...

*"There was a time when I courted trouble, but that was long ago. My current philosophy of life sounds like a mediocre country song: Trouble will land on your doorstep, no sense inviting it in."*

## Upcoming Events

### DIY Publicity Workshop

Saturday, November 10<sup>th</sup>

Story Studio

4043 N. Ravenswood, #222

I'll be co-leading this workshop with my personal publicist, Andrea Pelose, on how to keep promoting your book for months (years) after the initial buzz dissipates. A terrific class to discuss social media, book readings, literary events, and associations.

**StoryStudiochicago**  
the center for writing and writers



### Fifth Wednesday Readings

November 16<sup>th</sup> at Book Cellar, 4726 N Lincoln

Featured readers include Lana Rakhman, Jackie K. White, and Kristy Bowen, all reading poetry, and prose readings by Philip Sultz and Ed Winkofsky. I'm especially thrilled to meet Ed Winkofsky, who is publishing his first story ever in this issue.

January 26<sup>th</sup> at Sunday Salon, Black Rock Tavern, 3614 N Damen

Cecilia Pinto, Suzanne Scanlon, John Kersey, and Jim McManus if he has lost if he has lost at poker in Vegas he'll be there. If he's on a winning streak, I'll be reading from his story (and he'll owe me!).

### SCBWI Mix 'N Mingle

On September 22, I attended the SCBWI Mix 'N Mingle with local librarians and school teachers at National Louis University. The event was a great opportunity to discuss my library lectures on Irish literature and Austen & Bronte. A teacher from the Old Orchard Junior High bought a copy of *The Heroines* to donate to the elite "8<sup>th</sup>-grade-only" bookshelf in their library. The librarian will vet the book and decide whether it's age appropriate. Intriguing!

### Fifth Wednesday

The print version of the journal will be released in early November. I'm looking forward to seeing the stories I chose in print, plus to read the poetry selected by the amazing Simone Muench.

### DIY Publicity Workshop with Story Studio

On November 10<sup>th</sup>, I'll be co-leading a one-day DIY Publicity workshop with Andrea Pelose at Story Studio. We'll discuss ways to make your book stay in the mix beyond the publishing world's prescribed two months. Tips on social media marketing, bookstore events, and other ideas will be our main topics. A great class for those debut and self-published authors.

<http://www.storystudiochicago.com/diy-publicity/>

### Novel Release Parties

I've also attended the release parties for the novels of three friends: *The Doula*, by Bridget Boland; *The Six Granddaughters of Cecil Slaughter*, by Susan Hahn; and *Promising Young Women*, by Suzanne Scanlon. Check out these books by local talented women.



### Heroines Quiz

Take a minute to check out this link to this quiz to find out which heroine you might be. I turned out to be Franny Glass. Contemplative? In the midst of spiritual crisis? Always!

<http://quizilla.teennick.com/quizzes/23932258/which-literary-heroine-are-you>

### Celebrating Illinois Arts Month

I was invited by Yvonne Zipter to contribute a short poem to a poetry gumball machine located at City News Bookstore (<http://www.citynewsstand.com/>) as part of Illinois Arts Month. Other contributing poets include Edward Hirsch, Elizabeth Alexander, and Elise Paschen.

### AFTER THE FUNERAL

A spoon or a fork she would never be—  
too cold and lonely when the drawer rolled closed.  
Who could sleep when she couldn't even see  
if the butcher knife slept or only dozed?  
Better, she thought, stepping into her bedroom,  
to be just an eyelet curtain hanging  
from a rod, have no knowledge of the tomb  
so deep, where her mother was still sleeping.  
As a curtain she would smell of smoke and dawn  
and taste like sheets. The wind would be her mother,  
rippling through her, in and out, she'd be drawn  
to take her shape. They would dance with one another.  
But the fading wind was enough to make  
her slip to the parquet, blink hard, and wake.

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## Stay Connected!

Want Eileen's latest news, event information, novel teasers, writing tips, and book suggestions? Start following her today.



Interested in hosting an event with Eileen? She is available for readings, book groups, school visits, adult workshops, and writing contest judging. Email inquiries to [eileen@eileenfavorite.com](mailto:eileen@eileenfavorite.com).