

Join us on Saturday, March 9th for our Writing Workshop and Breakfast

The Four Foundational Pillars of Novel Construction

featuring C.S. Lakin

A great novel needs a solid foundation!

- **Concept with a Kicker:** Novelists need to understand the difference between idea, premise, and concept. A great idea does not make a novel. Ideas have to be taken to a higher level; they have to have a kicker.
- **Conflict with High Stakes:** Too many novels have minimal conflict—internal and external. Conflict needs to involve high stakes—both personal and public—for the story to propel forward with the necessary tension.
- **Protagonist with a Goal:** All too often protagonists of novels are aimless, just reacting to events as they happen without having a specific plot goal. But a novel needs a clear objective for its hero.
- **Theme with a Heart:** The way the theme is presented throughout the story should show the “heart” that underlies the plot.



C. S. Lakin is the author of twenty novels and ten writing craft books (The Writer's Toolbox Series).

She works professionally as a copyeditor and writing coach for authors, agents, and publishers in six continents and critiques more than two hundred manuscripts a year. She also guest blogs on the top writing blogs and offers online video courses for writers and editors at Writing for Life Workshops.

Lakin is the fiction track director of the San Francisco Writers' Conference and teaches workshops around the country, including plotting and scene-structure boot camps.

Her award-winning blog Live Write Thrive provides year-long instruction for writers. Contact her at cslakin@gmail.com, and check out her books on her Amazon author page.