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## Agent/Query Submission Central

Workshop #9 – March 10, 2017

- Revision query evaluations for Bria and Tammy,
- Evals of query & synopsis revisions from Vicki and first 350 words of novel.
- Tweaking/nitpicking on Janet's query and synopsis.

Report from Linda (were you able to cancel with PayPal ?)

from Bria~

Subject Line: The Chantress Vs. the Assassin

In a medieval world called Livinity, conspirators target a king for assassination. A woman named Chloe is sent to prevent the king's death, but as a mindchantress in a human land, she must hide her real mission and her race. She secures a position as lady-in-waiting to the princess where she can remain close to the king. When a pair of mindchanters from her home country arrive at the castle, she fears they will expose her true identity, leading the king to banish her or worse.

Instead of exposing Chloe, the mindchanters provide vital information about the assassination plot. The king's absent brother is behind the conspiracy, and the assassin will arrive any day. Chloe immediately suspects a suitor who arrives to court the princess. When an opportunity arises, Chloe sneaks into the suitor's room to search for clues, and while she's there, someone breaks into the room

through the window. The man is a fairie Chloe has never seen before, and he moves to attack her. She only has a moment to decide whether or not to use magic. If she doesn't use her powers, he might kill her before she can get away. If she casts spells to stop him, she will save the king, but everyone will know who she really is: a chantress. No matter what she decides, the cost could still be her life.

*Livinity (Book One)*, epic fantasy, is complete at 118,000 words targeting an adult audience. At the Royal Palm Literary Awards in 2011, *Livinity* earned First Place in the Unpublished Fantasy category. Books Two and Three are still in-progress. Over a dozen of my short story publications have appeared in anthologies and literary magazines. I earned my Bachelor of Arts from Flagler College where I majored in English with a minor in Creative Writing. I also graduated magna cum laude and received the English Department Award. As an active member of the Florida Writers Association, I lead the St. Pete chapter and a critique group. At St. Pete Running Company, I'm employed as a blogger and customer service manager.

I would love to send you further materials at your request. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Bria Burton

[www.briaburton.com](http://www.briaburton.com)

STORY CORE:

**Who** is the main character? Chloe

**What** does she want? To save the King

**Why** does she want it? Given this purpose from . . . mission . . . or else Kingdom could be destroyed by wrong leader taking over the throne.

Repercussions could be world wide. Why? Evil will become the new norm. Worldwide. All kingdoms share the same physical location.

**What** stands in her way? Limitations because if humans find out about her gifts, she might be considered devil, sent away, or killed.

**What** happens if she doesn't get what she wants? Destroy the entire planet/island for everyone of all ilks.

Subject Line: The Chantress Vs. the Assassin

Lone chantresses mission.

Mission impossible:

Chloe vs the kingdom killers

(Can you make this more intriguing? Is Chantress a well-known word in fantasy novels?)

In a medieval world called Livinity, conspirators target a king for assassination. A woman named Chloe is sent to prevent the king's death, but as a mindchantress in a human land, she must hide her real mission and her race. Question: Is Livinity a human world?

HUMAN AND FAIRY She secures a position as lady-in-waiting to the princess where she can remain close to the king. When a pair of mindchanters from her home country arrive at the castle, she fears they will expose her true identity, leading the king to banish her or worse. WHAT IS SO TERRIBLE ABOUT BEING BANISHED? WILL FANTASY READERS KNOW WHAT A MINDCHANTRESS IS?

Tease here might be that she must achieve this mission to preserve the status quo. The future of her country and that of the humans is at risk.

Agent reveal, Chole is really a fairy.

In medieval Levinty, conspirators target the king for assassination. Chloe, a mindchantress, becomes lady-in-waiting to the princess so she can protect the king. But, when mindchanters arrive at the castle, she fears exposure of her true identity, which would lead to banishment or worse.

STILL UNCLEAR AS TO THE PERIL OF BANISHMENT. Or, are failed mindchanter/protectors send to some terrible place?

Instead of exposing Chloe, the mindchanters provide vital information about the assassination plot. The king's absent brother is behind the conspiracy, and the assassin will arrive any day. Chloe immediately suspects a suitor who arrives to court the princess. When an opportunity arises, Chloe sneaks into the suitor's room to search for clues, and while she's there, someone breaks into the room through the window. The man is a fairie Chloe has never seen before, and he moves to attack her. She only has a moment to decide whether or not to use magic. If she doesn't use her powers, he might kill her before she can get away. If she casts spells to stop him, she will save the king, but everyone will know who she really is: a chantress. No matter what she decides, the cost could still be her life. THIS IS ONLY ONE EVENT. WHAT IS AT STAKE IF THE KING IS ASSINATED? HOW WOULD EVERYONE KNOW WHAT SHE HAS DONE IF SHE PROTECTS HERSELF? WHY DOES THIS THREATEN HER LIFE? I'M NOT FEELING THE PERIL. CAN YOU GO DEEPER?

What happens if the king is assassinated?

Decision whether **save the kingdoms or save herself.**

*Livinity (Book One)*, AN epic fantasy, is complete at 118,000 words targeting an adult audience. LENGTH WILL BE A PROBLEM. At the Royal Palm Literary Awards in 2011, *Livinity* earned First Place in the Unpublished Fantasy category. ~~Books Two and Three are still in progress.~~ Over a dozen BE SPECIFIC of my short story DO YOU MEAN STORIES? ~~publications~~ have appeared in anthologies and literary magazines. I earned my Bachelor of Arts from Flagler College where I majored in English with a minor in Creative Writing. I also graduated magna cum laude and received the English Department Award. **Maybe leave out academics.** STATE YOUR ACADEMIC CREDITS QUICKLY. As an active member of the Florida Writers Association, MENTION YOUR LIVE-STREAMING CLASS (OR WHATEVER THAT WAS) IN THE LAST YEARLY WRITERS' CONFERENCE. FLASH YOUR DIGITAL CREDITS. PUT IN SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS. I lead the St. Pete chapter and a critique group. At St. Pete Running Company, I'm employed **as a blogger** and customer service manager. REVISE TO MAKE THIS MORE CLEAR. I'M EMPLOYED AS A BLOGGER AND CUSTOMER SERVICE MANAGER AT ?????? What blog activities?

Good to mention you have blogging and internet experience. This is becoming increasingly important to publishers as they consider how much the writer will be able to participate in the digital world.

Put in all digital.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND CONSIDERATION.

~~I would love to send you further materials at your request. Thank you for your consideration.~~

Sincerely,

Bria Burton

[www.briaburton.com](http://www.briaburton.com)

WHERE IS YOUR FACEBOOK PAGE?

LIST YOUR DIGITAL STUFF.

DO YOU TWEET, OR SNAP OR ???

Twitter @bria\_

Instagram address

Facebook address

From Tammy~

Subject line: ALL THE WORLD'S A STAGE AND ALL THE PLAYERS GAME.

### **Story Core:**

Who is my main character? Dr. Olivia Greyson

What does she want? She wants to heal emotionally.

Why does she want it? Live without fear

What stands in her way? Self-forgiveness

What is the terrible or else that might occur if she doesn't get what she wants? Another wrong choice could lead to her demise and the death of another colleague

### **The Shakespeare Murders:**

On a murky night a few years ago, former profiler, Dr. Olivia Greyson made a wrong choice that led to her partner's death. With a friend gone and her career shattered, Olivia left the FBI, for a life of academia. Time away has helped her work through some grief, but the image of her murdered colleague won't let her rest. When her former mentor calls to invite her back to the criminal battlefield, she contemplates her decision to **hide** away. Although reluctant to accept

his offer, Olivia knows the only hope of salvaging her reputation, and burying the past, is to return to the life she left behind. But, will this bizarre case cause more self-doubt and cripple her progress before she's had the chance to redeem herself?

A beautiful, young, redhead is brutally murdered. All clues point to a psychopath that terrorized Atlanta ten years ago, Olivia must determine if the killer dubbed "Shakespeare" has returned, or if a copy-cat is at work. All the victims are staged in sixteenth century Elizabethan gowns and clutched in each woman's hand is a different Shakespearean quote. THESE The cryptic quotes are the key to the killer's identity but, to find him she must first unravel the mystery of where the gowns came from. Olivia discovers more than she bargained for as the case takes her down several paths from a black-market adoption shelter, to a prominent senator with a long-buried secret, to the conspiracies that surround the identity of the real Shakespeare. As the case progresses, evidence disappears and when a young redhead from the coroner's office goes missing, Olivia fears the killer is close. Unsure who to trust, she starts to panic. She makes an impulsive choice that brings her face-to-face with the killer and puts her in a similar peril that led to her previous failure. This time she must alter the outcome if she and this young girl are going to make it out alive. Will Olivia be able to rewrite his twisted play before the curtain falls on her? (342 words)

The Shakespeare Murders is a \_\_\_\_\_ word crime thriller/mystery. My background is in scientific research. I've co-authored several peer-reviewed articles. I am also an active member of a writer's critique group.

Thank you for your consideration  
Tammy Desjarlais

### **Story Core:**

Who is my main character? Dr. Olivia Greyson

What does she want? She wants to heal emotionally.

Why does she want it? Live without fear

What stands in her way? Self-forgiveness

What is the terrible or else that might occur if she doesn't get what she wants? Another wrong choice could lead to her demise and the death of another colleague.

### **The Shakespeare Murders:**

On a murky night a few years ago, former profiler, Dr. Olivia Greyson made a wrong choice that led to her partner's death. With a friend gone and her career shattered, Olivia left the FBI, for a life of academia. Time away has helped her work through some grief, but the image of her murdered colleague won't let her rest. When her former mentor calls to invite her back to the criminal battlefield, she contemplates the WHAT DOES SHE CONTEMPLATE? CHOICE TO FAIL OR SUCCEED? her decision to hide LEAVE SAFE AND SECURE LIFESTYLE, JUMP BACK INTO FREY away. Although reluctant WHY RELUCTANT? to accept his offer, Olivia knows the only hope of salvaging her reputation, and burying the past, is to return to the life she left behind. But, will this bizarre case cause more self-doubt and cripple her progress before she's had the chance to redeem herself? But, will this bizarre case cause more self-doubt and cripple her progress before she's had the chance to redeem herself? THIS SENTENCE IS HEADING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION, but needs to be clarified as to your meaning. Will this bizarre case redeem herself or cripple her further, pull her back into her past. Does she really want to step back on the stage into profiling/investigation. Or does she want to remain in emotionally safe world of academia/audience.

NEED A BRIDGE, When Olivia MAKES THE DECISION TO STEP BACK begins her investigation, she's shocked to discover the brutal murder of this young redhead is eerily similar to events ten years earlier. ~~A beautiful, young, redhead is brutally murdered.~~ All clues point to a psychopath WHO that terrorized Atlanta ten years ago PERIOD, Olivia QUESTIONS, HAS THE SHAKESPEARE KILLER RETURNED, OR IS THIS THE WORK OF A COPY CAT. ~~must determine if the killer dubbed Shakespeare has returned, or if a copycat is at work.~~ AS BEFORE, THE VICTIM'S DEATH HAS BEEN ELABORATELY STAGED, AND SHE WEARS AN ELIZABETHAN GOWN. CLITCHED IN HER HAND IS A SHAKESPEARE QUOTE ABOUT . . . . (QUESTION: does the quote play an important part in this case? If so, can you reveal it to allow your reader to also ponder the meaning?) ~~All the victims are staged in sixteenth century Elizabethan gowns and clutched in each woman's hand is a different Shakespearean quote.~~ The cryptic quote ABOUT (Ahah! Reveal it here!) probably reveals the killer's identity. But to ~~are the key to the killer's identity but, to find him she must first DISCOVER unravel the mystery of THE GOWN'S SOURCE. where the gowns came from.~~ Olivia ~~discovers more than she bargained for~~ USE A DIFFERENT PHRASE INSTEAD OF USING THIS "OVERUSED ONE" ~~don't use this trite as the case PROPELLS~~ takes her down several paths from a black-market adoption shelter, to a prominent senator with a long-buried secret, to the conspiracies that surround the identity of the ORIGINAL SHAKESPEARE KILLER. ~~real Shakespeare.~~ As the case progresses, evidence disappears and ~~when~~ a young, redhead from the coroner's office (ALSO A REDHEAD) goes missing PERIOD, Olivia fears the killer is close. Unsure who SHE CAN to trust, she starts to panic AND MAKES ~~She makes an impulsive choice that brings her face-to-face with the killer COMMA, and puts her in a SITUATION similar peril~~ SIMILAR TO THE ONE that led to her previous failure.

HOWEVER, This time she must alter the outcome if she and this young girl WHAT YOUNG GIRL? IS THERE A LINK BETWEEN HAIR COLOR AND THE KILLER? are going to make it out alive. Will Olivia be able to rewrite his twisted play before the curtain falls on her?

Question ABOUT THE RED HAIR. Make sure you are clear that red hair is one major clue to finding the killer.

The Shakespeare Murders is a \_\_\_\_\_ word crime thriller/mystery. ~~My background is in scientific research. I've co-authored several peer-reviewed articles.~~ FIND ANOTHER WAY TO TELL ABOUT YOUR BACKGROUND SO IT EASILY LINKS TO THE CORE OF YOUR STORY. I am also an active member of a writer's critique group. NAME YOUR WRITERS' GROUP.

Thank you for your TIME AND consideration

Comments or questions?

TAMMY

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**From Vicki**

It followed her to school one day, breaking all the rules.

Who is the story about: Sadie

What does she want: to fit in like a normal teenager

What stands in her way: lack of self-esteem

What is the terrible or else: Suicide

## Query

Born with cerebral palsy Sadie hides her disability behind long skirts. Her peers taunt the “cripple geek” whenever she wobbles by, and Sadie endures a painful life of loneliness. Until Finn, a British exchange student arrives. He sees beyond Sadie’s walk and insecurities. Sadie finds laughter, learns to cheat at poker, and together they harmonize on her original songs. When the school year ends, Finn returns home. He vows to visit, but Sadie’s convinced she’ll never see him again. Sent to her grandmother’s Catskill Mountain house for the summer, the isolated setting is the perfect refuge to end her life. Yet in the forest, as at school, Sadie senses someone watches.

NEED A BRIDGE HERE. USE THE WORD WATCHES. FORCE IS NOT THE SAME THING.

NEED TO INCLUDE THAT SHE does attempt suicide, but is thwarted in an unusual manner (ick). She meets the **watcher** who thwarted her suicide attempt, a hand-sized fairy named Devilia. Drawn together by their common need to belong, Sadie and Devilia begin a tentative relationship that evolves as they become companions, and then friends. When school begins, Sadie allows Devilia to live with her in the city. Although Devilia promises not to use her fairy magic, she disobeys. On a field trip to the Natural History Museum, Devilia lures hundreds of butterflies to land on Sadie. They lift her skirt, revealing Sadie’s crooked legs. The event goes viral. Humiliated, Sadie feels even more like a freak. Finn IMs “How cool! Wish I’d been there.” He reveals that he’s helping a mate sell “merchandise” so he can buy a plane ticket to visit her. Intuition tells Sadie that Finn’s dealing drugs. SHE BEGS Devilia to HELP HER stop Finn. ASAP. Devilia, ALTHOUGH terrified she’ll die in the cyber world, conjures fairy magic and disappears in a flash of energy AS SHE EMAILS herself to Finn. Sadie waits and waits, messaging

Finn frantically. No response. Finn is gone. Devilia is gone. And without them in her life, Sadie also wants to be gone.

My YA novel “Crooked” is complete at 73,000 words. I’m a member of SCBWI, attend writers’ conferences and workshops, and have participated with a Writer’s Group and writing partners since 2004.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

### Synopsis:

After swallowing a handful of pills, Sadie wakes, dazed from a failed suicide. An unseen entity follows her every move. Her computer SHOOTS electrical flashes and her iPod turns itself on, playing Beatle’s songs. Sadie finally discovers her culprit, DEVILIA, a mischievous hand-sized fairy. LIKE SADIE, ALONE IN A TEENAGE WORLD, DEVLIA WHO FEELS LOST IN THE HUMAN WORLD, yearns to belong.

Sadie develops a fondness for Devilia. Their cautious alliance leads to companionship. At summer’s end, Sadie allows Devilia to live in her room IN NEW YORK. Curious about Sadie’s world, Devilia demands to attend school. Sadie’s sets forth strict rules; stay invisible in public and no magic. Devilia agrees. But when a group of girls tease Sadie, Devilia uses her invisibility to disgrace them in front of their peers. They take their anger out on Sadie, pushing and shoving her. Sadie’s rage explodes. She fights back, with the assistance of the unseen Devilia. Sadie’s shocked at the fairy’s strength, and worries the girls may plan their revenge.

Then, during a field trip, Devilia CAUSES is the cause of a small miracle involving butterflies, and Sadie becomes a YouTube

sensation. Television stations clamor for HER ~~Sadie's~~ story but she avoids them. Her "girl torturers" create a Facebook page LABELING ~~calling~~ Sadie a witch. Sadie blames Devilia, and wants her gone. But could Devilia survive in the city without Sadie? And could Sadie release this small being who fills her life with adventure as well as complications, and joy?

To add to her troubles, Finn has been busy hanging out with a nefarious character ~~that~~ he HAD met in the summer. Although he doesn't tell Sadie, she knows he has been dealing drugs. When Sadie senses something big is going down, she begs Devilia to fly through the Internet and stop Finn from ruining his life. Devilia arrives just in time to interrupt a major drug transaction by starting a fight. She is critically injured. Determined to save Devilia, Finn uses the drug money to fly to New York, and meetS Sadie in the Catskills the next day. They carry Devilia to her magical garden with a healing stream, and try to revive her, but Devilia slowly fades to nothing.

Although mourning the loss of her friend, Sadie can no longer evade reporters. The next evening on a talk show on national television, Sadie blurts out "~~It was~~ a fairy that caused my miracle." At that moment, Devilia flies out of Sadie's pocket. In a frenzy of confusion cameras crash, lights explode, and staff and crew TRY TO CAPTURE DEVILIA, WHO FLEES. ~~chase Devilia, trying to catch her. Devilia flees.~~ Sadie and Finn escape back to Sadie's apartment AND WAIT ON THE ROOF FOR DEVILIA TO RETURN. At the moment when Sadie and Finn kiss for the first time, Devilia fills the sky with shooting stars, bids them farewell and flies away on her own journey. ~~Hours later, on the rooftop, they anticipate Devilia's return. She finally arrives. The sky fills with shooting stars as Devilia bids them goodbye, and flies off ready for her own journey. Sadie and Finn kiss.~~ Finn returns home ~~and is off~~ to the discipline of boarding school. Weeks later, Sadie Skypes Finn telling him she's won a role in the

school play. She reveals her costume: a body hugging t-shirt and red tights.

## **Chapter One**

A screen door slammed and Sadie burst out wearing a worn leather knapsack, its straps pulling on her bony shoulders, jutting her chest forward. Her legs dragged left, right, left, right turning her body into a human metronome. She carried a muffin in one hand, and balanced a hot mug in the other. Her thick mane of long chocolate curls hung in front of her face and cascaded down her back, bouncing with each step. NICE DESCRIPTION OF SADIE.

*\*\* I follow her and she rocks this way and that. She gives Devilia dizzyspins. \*\**

“Ouch!” Sadie yelled as something pulled her hair, causing her to lose her balance. Her hot tea splashed and she dropped her muffin, stepping on it. “Damn!”

*\*\* Ha ha! Devilia gave her a spillmess. \*\**

“Oh great!” Sadie slammed her mug on a tree stump beside the stream. She rubbed the back of her head. “What the hell kind of bug was that?” After tossing her knapsack on a large hammock beside the waters’ edge, she inspected her crushed muffin while massaging her burnt hand. “Nice gourmet breakfast Sadie,” she mumbled, reaching down to recover edible crumbs, and resenting how people took bending down for granted.

*\*\* Her legs swishswish when she walks. Again I pulltug on mopyy hair and she cries GO AWAY BUG and flings her arms at Devilia. My*

wings carry me head first into an orange daylily. Ouch. Her fault! I settlesit inside tall petals and it becomes a perfect spot for me to observe her. \*\*

Something flew under Sadie's hair, flashing into her face, and getting caught in her curls. "Ooh, ooh..." The thing seemed too large to be a bug, but after enough wild slaps it flew away. Sadie tossed all of her hair over her head, shaking it out frantically. In the past, her avalanche of hair shielded her, blocking people from seeing in. Here, it was just a giant bug magnet. Once she calmed down, Sadie noticed a hummingbird sipping nectar from a daylily. "Was that you?"

\*\* I fly back under scraggletangled hair. This time Devilia is careful not to touch any part of her. Now I can stare. She breathes on me the smell of cinnamon. Her skin glows a perfect color of moonflower. She has deep greenbrowngolden eyes. I want her to be dumbstupid. Devilia is worried that might not be so. \*\*

**379 WORDS TO HERE.** At this point, will a reader know what this story is about? Remember, others will not have read your query or synopsis which tells your story fully.

Comments about what is this story about. Might be about Devilia, the fairy. Didn't quite get that Devilia was referring to herself.

Tell her conflict in email to Finn. Open with that. Sadie is in the bedroom. She is thanking him.

Finn answered.

Grandmother/someone one comes into the room, and caresses her cheek, expresses caring.

Devilia expresses jealousy. Why such a fuss over the being with the xxxx walk and haglyscraggly hair.

Devilia wonders about this strange girl. She is curious. Hasn't seen young girl before. Doesn't walk like anyone she has never seen.

PROBLEM: Introducing Devilia in this way sucks attention away from Sadie. Is there another way to do this? Perhaps using email to Finn to say goodbye?

Hmmmm. **Vicki, let's talk about the story you want to tell.** The one that is screaming and yelling to get out. Could it be more about Devilia than Sadie? Could you tell this story with Devilia as the protagonist? Drawn to and befriending this scragglehaired human?

My intention is not to pull you away from the story you want to tell. The challenge for me is understanding exactly what that is.

**FOR NEXT EVAL ON 24<sup>TH</sup>, WRITE 350 WORDS LIKE YOU WANT AND WE'LL MAKE COMMENTS.**

**Sadie in bedroom writing to Finn.**

**Goes outside into forest in back into back of house.**

**Devilia tries to look in her mouth.**

**She vomits.**

**Is she going insane. Spooked.**

**XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX**

From Janet~

SUBJECT LINE: Glass Promises

Professor Grace Stone was a new mother and happily married (or so she thought) when her husband and his mistress were killed IN A CAR ACCIDENT. The pressures of HER ACADEMIC CAREER AND single motherhood are multiplied for Grace when Lily, her four-year-old daughter, demands that Mommy “find her a daddy.” As an orphan and the offspring of an illicit affair, Grace knows the heartbreak of rejection all too well. Is the possibility of love worth the cutting pain of glass promises?

Despite a persistent fear of being vulnerable again, Grace tries speed dating. She meets Beau Charvet, ALSO A VICTIM OF A CHEATING SPOUSE) ~~another victim of a cheating spouse,~~ but is reluctant to pursue a relationship ~~with him.~~ However, spurred by a strong attraction, she falls into his passionate embrace. At a ritzy charity event, Grace’s uncanny resemblance to her dead mother causes an incident which reveals relatives she didn’t know existed. She believes her days of longing for a family are over, but complications arise PERIOD ~~because~~ Beau is now her step-cousin and HIS SISTER ~~another relative~~ treats Grace like an unwanted bastard CHILD. Although mounting pressures force a break in their relationship, Grace is determined to secure a place in Beau’s love-scarred heart. Will her efforts succeed or will she and Lily be forced to soldier on as a lonely family of two?

My 68,200 word completed romance, *GLASS PROMISES*, won third place in the 2016 Royal Palm Literary Award competition. I am a member of the Florida Writers Association, Romance Writers of America, Coral Springs Writers Group, a board member of the Florida

Romance Writers, and assistant chairperson for the annual Coral Springs Literary Festival.

Synopsis:

Two years into her marriage, GRACE STONE (no caps) is left a widow with a newborn daughter. She obtains her PhD, secures a tenured university position, creates close friendships, and pays off the mortgage on her home. Life is good except for Lily's persistent preschooler demands for a daddy. Despite her vulnerability and fear of rejection, Grace cannot deny her child the love of a father. She reenters the complicated world of relationships with speed dating. Weeks later, when her car is totaled in a freak construction accident, Grace encounters BEAU CHARVET, note: don't cap character's names one of her rejected five minute speed dates. After he assists Grace with the purchase of a new CAR, ~~vehicle~~, they become intimate...in her garage...(elipses are spaced . . . out) on the trunk of his car. Appalled by her loss of control, Grace shuts down the relationship. However, Beau's patience and genuine feelings compel her to give him another chance.

When Grace discovers a family connection to Beau's stepmother, she's thrilled to have found living relatives. But tensions flare when Beau's sister, Gen, views her as an illegitimate interloper. The strife drives Grace to press Beau for a commitment. Instead of a vow of love, he reveals the emotional scars inflicted by his ex-wife and a fear of risking his heart again. With no hope of a future together, Grace is devastated and ends their relationship.

Despite their breakup, Grace and Beau pledge to maintain a cordial family bond for Lily's sake BECAUSE THEY ARE FAMILY. Their new status starts with BEAU'S FAMILY the Charvet's Thanksgiving dinner. The get-together goes well until Gen's seven-year-old

daughter locks Lily in a dark cabinet with a “snake”. DON’T MAKE THIS TOO IMPORTANT. IT’S SUFFICIENT TO SAY LILY IS LOCKED IN A CLOSET DURING A GAME OF HIDE ‘N SEEK. ~~Her childish logic dictates that if Grace left and never came back then her mother would be happy again.~~ NOT GOOD IDEA TO INTRODUCE A NEW ELEMENT INTO THE CORE OF YOUR STORY. All the drama ~~and intrusion~~ forces Grace to question the value of an extended family. But her deep feelings for Beau and a growing attachment to her warts-and-all relatives confirm their worth. So Grace maps out a campaign to win Beau’s love and his sister’s acceptance.

Tapping into her intellect and femininity, Grace appeals to Beau’s masculine desires with flirtations and food. She provides support to Gen who also has been wounded by marital infidelity. On Christmas Day, Lily cries when she receives a bike from Beau. She tells him “only daddies should give bikes to little girls.” Touched by Lily’s tears, Beau realizes HOW MUCH he wants her and Grace in his ~~heart and~~ life. HE PROPOSES TO GRACE AND LILY. THEY ACCEPT. ~~The next day he asks Grace to marry him. She agrees but says he must get Lily’s approval also.~~ Six months later, after ~~their~~ vows are spoken, Lily announces ~~with great satisfaction~~ to the wedding guests, “We just got married.”

TWEAKING COMMENTS? GROUP APPLAUSE AND CLAPPING.

Janet, would it help you to share the first 10 pages of your ms, which would include the first page you revised in prior workshops?

**ALSO, DISCUSS DATES for next workshops.** We are off on the 17<sup>th</sup>, then on the 24<sup>th</sup> evals are to be made etc. on facebook, with March 31<sup>st</sup> as our last class meeting?

## AND WHAT ELSE?

Coral Springs website for activities 16, 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, etc. lots of workshops. Janet is presenting about “log lines and tag lines.” 9 to 10 on the 17th. (near Ft. Lauderdale, just south of Boca)  
Janet will send template to her log/tag lines worksheet.