

Private Consultation with Writer in Residence Gabrielle Prendergast

Drop-in & consultation hours run from September 8 to November 1, 2022:

Tuesdays: 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm*

Thursdays: 11:00 am - 1:00 pm*

Saturdays: 11:00 am - 1:00 pm

*The Writer in Residence will be away on Tuesday, October 4 & Thursday, October 6.

About one-on-one consultations with PRPL's Writer in Residence:

- Book your session by calling the library at 604-485-4796 or by emailing wir@prpl.ca.
- Bookings for individual consultations are made on a first-come, first-served basis. Pre-booked sessions will take priority over drop-ins.
- Individual consultations last a maximum of one hour, and take place in person at the library in the Rotary Makerspace.
- Please note that the availability of consultations is based on demand. If demand is high, we will limit individuals to a maximum of two consultations.

You may discuss either poetry or prose during your one-on-one session with the Writer in Residence. To get the most out of your consultation, please read the submission guidelines carefully and submit your work by email to wir@prpl.ca or to the library service desk at least **one week** ahead of your booked consultation.

For poetry submissions:

Up to five poems to a maximum of 100 lines

Supporting information required for poems:

A brief statement (up to 100 words) about your inspiration and intentions for the poem.

Example:

“Nina’s Son” in **CAPRICIOUS** by Gabrielle Prendergast, Orca Book Publishers, 2014

This poem was inspired by the feeling of holding someone else’s baby for the first time. I wanted to draw a strong contrast between what is alive and what is artificial, and reflect the nascent maternal feelings of the narrator.

Please submit in one document in this order:

For Poems (for each poem)

1. Title
2. Statement
3. Poem

For prose submissions:

Up to 5000 words of your single prose work in progress (can be fiction or non-fiction). Please submit in one document in the below-listed order.

Supporting information required for prose:

1. Working Title and author name
2. Marketing category (children, middle grade, teen or adults)
3. Genre - short story, fantasy, science fiction, memoir, romance, self-help etc. (can be more than one - ie. fantasy romance or science fiction short story)
4. A “Twitter pitch” - up to 280 characters (about 20-40 words) telling me briefly what your book is about. * *See examples (1) below*
5. A paragraph pitch or “cover copy” * *See examples (2) below*
6. The work (up to 5000 words of prose)

* (1) A “Twitter pitch” - up to 280 characters

Examples:

In AFTERSHOCK estranged half-sisters need to band together in order to survive the terrifying aftermath of a massive earthquake in BC’s lower mainland.

(Gabrielle Prendergast, AFTERSHOCK, Orca Book Publishers, 2024)

In A WOLF FOR A SPELL, a wolf in the Russian forest is cursed to trade places with Baba Yaga. Now she must learn magic and human ways to break the spell and stop the hunt that threatens her pack.

(Karah Sutton, A Wolf for a Spell, Knopf, 2020)

* (2) A paragraph pitch or “cover copy”

This is a longer description of your work of about 200-250 words. It includes information about the main characters or topics and a brief taste of the plot or themes. It does not tell the whole plot or give away the ending. It’s purpose is to orient the reader as to what they can expect and entice them to read. You will find short pitches like this on book covers, online book retailers or sites like Goodreads. Don’t worry if you struggle with these tasks. Just do your best.

Examples:

THE CROSSWOOD

By Gabrielle Prendergast
Orca Book Publishers 2021

Deals made with fairies never turn out well.

14 year-old Blue Jasper has about had it with his peculiar twin siblings, Indigo and Violet. Not even ten years old they seem to rule his household, as his exhausted single mom struggles to keep up with their seemingly supernatural levels of energy. And of course that means there's not much attention left over for boringly average Blue. With the long empty summer between middle school and high school looming, Blue's plan is to just stay out of everyone's way.

But that means avoiding chores too, and when Blue's absence causes his mum to injure her ankle, suddenly his plan to spend less time with his annoying siblings gets turned upside down. That's when things get weird. During a much-needed hike in the forest surrounding their home, the twins vanish! As Blue frantically searches for them, a strange woman appears claiming to be the twins' real mother - a faerie queen! Now because of a magical pact, if Blue doesn't find the twins before the next sunset, his own mother's life will be in danger.

Blue will have to be much more than boring and average to rescue the twins and save his mother's life. And finding his way into the magical Crosswood is only the beginning.

THE STOLEN VILLAGE: BALTIMORE AND THE BARBARY PIRATES

by Des Ekin
O'Brien Press 2006

In June 1631 pirates from Algiers and armed troops of the Turkish Ottoman Empire, led by the notorious pirate captain Morat Rais, stormed ashore at the little harbour village of Baltimore in West Cork. They captured almost all the villagers and bore them away to a life of slavery in North Africa. The prisoners were destined for a variety of fates -- some would live out their days chained to the oars as galley slaves, while others would spend long years in the scented seclusion of the harem or within the walls of the Sultan's palace. The old city of Algiers, with its narrow streets, intense heat and lively trade, was a melting pot where the villagers would join slaves and freemen of many nationalities. Only two of them ever saw Ireland again.

The Sack of Baltimore was the most devastating invasion ever mounted by Islamist forces on Ireland or England. Des Ekin's exhaustive research illuminates the political intrigues that ensured the captives were left to their fate, and provides a vivid insight into the kind of life that would have awaited the slaves amid the souks and seraglios of old Algiers.

The Stolen Village is a fascinating tale of international piracy and culture clash nearly 400 years ago and is the first book to cover this relatively unknown and under-researched incident in Irish history.