



by Kristopher Zgorski

*The Art of Narrative* (<https://artofnarrative.com/>) is a writing blog that has a ton of useful information. Working writers and aspiring authors both will find topics of interest if they are willing to wade through the contents of this website. The host of the site only identifies himself as John, but explains that he is both a writer and teacher and that he enjoys researching and gathering resources to help writers hone their craft. With easy to understand categories such as Fiction, Non-Fiction, Poetry, Character, and Plot, visitors to the site will have little trouble navigating to find useful information. There is also a link to an associated podcast for those who enjoy listening to advice and discussions of writing techniques and journeys. The pop-up ads can get annoying, so visit when you are not easily frustrated. There is a wealth of great information to be uncovered.

For a fun site to visit every now and then, give *The Book Cover Review* (<https://bookcoverreview.co.uk/>) a try. Here you will find short—around 500 words—discussions about the cover art on a particular book. Each “review” is written by a different freelancer, so you will get a variety of opinions, not all of which you are likely to agree with. But we all know that cover art is a highly subjective topic, so it can be both fun and interesting to see a more learned and informed discussion of the various successes and failures. The frequency of the posts vary, so this is not a site you would need to visit regularly, but it is perfect when you just need a short distraction . . . or procrastination from something more important.

In contrast, *Written by Sime* (<https://writtenbysime.com/>) is a frequently updated book review blog from Simon McDonald, a bookseller based in Sydney, Australia. Here you will find well-balanced and informative reviews of new crime fiction recently released in Australia. The ease of obtaining these books in the United States varies, but certainly many of the titles discussed have domestic editions, so this is a great way to stay on top of what is trending worldwide. Simon keeps his reviews spoiler-free and certainly most readers won't leave the site without having added at least one new title to their to-be-read pile(s).

Lastly, for historical crime fans, don't miss *A Curiosity of Crime* (<https://www.acuriosityofcrime.com/>), a blog site from a historian who loves to share posts about crimes and criminals from yesteryear. There is a handy time line that recounts important cases, developments in forensics, and cultural shifts starting in 1801 with the appointment of a High Constable for New York through to 1935 with the formal launch of the FBI. There is also a glossary of interesting terms and a list of some significant people crime historians might like to know about. Kerry, the curator of the site, is also available

to host workshops and lectures on a variety of topics outlined on the contact page—for those who arrange those sorts of events. © 2024 by *Kristopher Zgorski*