

Writers' FORUM

A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

I was a little reluctant to commission Robin Dynes' article on Reading as a Writer (p48). Not because it isn't a useful and important skill, but because thinking like an author while you're reading can change the experience. Instead of getting caught up in the narrative, you might be sidetracked by why the author used this metaphor or that verb instead of another.

But, really, I think all readers do this at some level. Part of the pleasure is appreciating the skill of the author in choosing just the right word, or in sculpting the plot for maximum impact. And doing this consciously and knowledgeably, rather than using 'gut feelings', can bring greater enjoyment. People say: 'I don't know much about art but I know what I like.' But if they knew more about art, they'd almost certainly like it more. And they'd strive to avoid such a cliché!

Write soon, Carl



Don't miss issue #207 on sale from 13 December

Writers' Forum

Select Publisher Services Ltd
PO Box 6337
Bournemouth BH1 9EH
TEL 01202 586848

PUBLISHER Tim Harris
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CHIEF SUB Wendy Reed

Photography and artwork
With thanks to Shutterstock
COVER IMAGE Tithi Luadthong

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Please note that *Writers' Forum* does not carry book reviews.

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Subscription rates (12 issues)
UK £38, EUROPE £49, ROW £56
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PRINTED BY
William Gibbons & Sons Ltd
26 Planetary Road, Willenhall, W Mids

DISTRIBUTED BY
Seymour Ltd, 2 East Poultry Avenue,
London EC1A 9PT

DATA PROTECTION For information about how we manage personal data, please see <https://www.selectmagazines.co.uk/privacy-policy>

Registered in England. Registered Number 5450559. Registered Office: Princecroft Willits LLP, Towngate House, 2-8 Parkstone Road, Poole BH15 2PW. A catalogue record for this magazine is available. British Library. ISSN 1467-2529

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