

# Writing Sex and Intimacy

## A discussion and workshop

Presented by Melbourne author Narrelle M Harris

Scenes involving sex and intimacy are an important tool for writers, but difficult to create. There's even an award for writers who get it horribly wrong – Literary Review magazine's Bad Sex Award. Nominees and winners have included otherwise accomplished writers as diverse as Tom Wolfe, Lee Child, Christos Tsiolkas and Jean M Auel.

With the success of *50 Shades of Grey*, however, there is a whole new readership for tales of intimacy, erotica and romance. Even in books unrelated to romance and erotica, writers need to tackle the issue of writing effective scenes involving sex and intimacy between their protagonists.

In this ninety minute guided discussion, Narrelle M Harris covers:

- **What is the difference between sex and intimacy?**
- **Why can it be difficult to write these scenes (especially if they are explicit) well?**
- **What are the elements of a good (or bad) sex scene?**
- **How necessary are scenes involving sex and intimacy to your story?**
- **How do you avoid nomination for the Bad Sex Award?**

She will also provide samples of intimate scenes for analysis and discussion from her own published works.

**NOTE: Due to the nature of the material, this workshop is rated M and participants must be 18 years of age or older to join the group.**

Narrelle's rate for each talk is **\$350 + GST per group**, which covers the 90-minute discussion and analysis, and further question time.

If you would like to engage Narrelle as a speaker for your library or organisation, contact her on **0421 024 474** or at [narrelle@iwriter.com.au](mailto:narrelle@iwriter.com.au).

*Testimonial:*

*"We were very privileged to have Narrelle visit our SciFi/Fantasy writing group recently and share her expertise with a Sex and Intimacy workshop. The theme is something that we, as writers, have all stumbled across quite often and we recognised a definite need to make sure we get it right.*

*Narrelle was fantastic. The workshop was fun, full of conversation and we were also able to analyse and share our thoughts on some of her work within this genre, learning all the way. Narrelle's enthusiasm and humour shone through and she shared invaluable tips and ideas for navigating different levels of intimacy between characters, as well as writing effective sex and erotica scenes.*

*Altogether, the workshop was excellent and we all left feeling more confident and inspired in our ability to tackle these scenes. Very highly recommended, thank you Narrelle!*

*– Hayley Barry-Smith, Alternate Worlds, Melbourne*



**About the presenter:**

**Narrelle M Harris** is a Melbourne-based writer with several novels, short stories, a play and numerous works of non-fiction under her belt. She also writes erotica under the name NM Harris.

Her first novel, crime/thriller, *Fly By Night* (2004), was nominated for a Ned Kelly Award. Her other published books are *Witch Honour* (2005), *Witch Faith* (2007), *The Opposite of Life* (2008), *Walking Shadows* (2012) and the short story collection *Showtime* (2012). Other short works have been published in *Outside the Law #3* and *Best Zombie Tales Volume 2*.

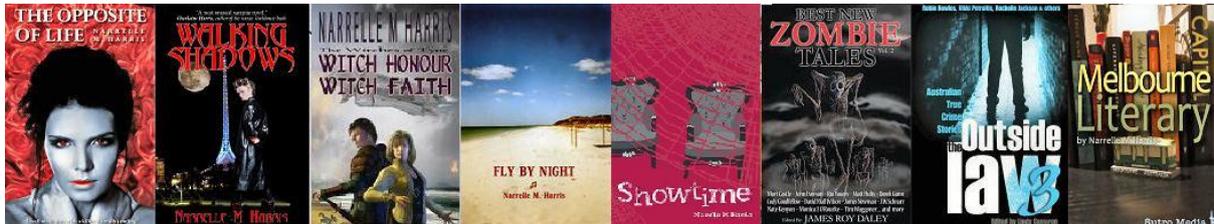
Narrelle's iPhone app, *Melbourne Literary*, was released in 2010 and a second app, *Melbourne Peculiar*, came out in 2012.

Also in 2012, Narrelle presented a one-day workshop for the Ballarat Writers Centre on fantasy writing building blocks.

Narrelle has a background in theatre and public speaking. She speaks at libraries, bookstores and other events. In 2009, Narrelle was a regular guest on radio show *The Outland Institute* on Joy 94.9FM, as the show's book expert. That same year, she was Guest of Honour at Melbourne science fiction convention, Continuum 5. She has also been a guest speaker for the MEAA and the ASA about e-readers and apps.

*"If you need a well-spoken author who captivates the audience, I highly recommend Narrelle."*  
– Josie Mitzi, Craigieburn Library.

Find out more at Narrelle's website: [www.narrellemharris.com](http://www.narrellemharris.com)  
or at her blog, [www.mortalwords.com.au](http://www.mortalwords.com.au)

**Narrelle's other talks and courses include:**

*"Narrelle Harris conducted a lively and engaging workshop recently at Ballarat... A great day, that saw us all leaving inspired to continue our writing."*

– Marian Chivers, Secretary, Ballarat Writers Inc.

**Courses**

Fantasy Writing Building Blocks (one day course)

**One-hour talks**

The Vampire Metaphor

Growing Up Reading

Building Believable Fantasy Worlds

Where Do You Get Your Ideas?

Visit <http://www.narrellemharris.com/speaking/> for more details.