

Cold Read Session for NaNoWriMo
March 27, 2010
12:00 Noon to 2:30 P.M.

Moderator: Flossie Benton-Rogers Author Panel: Elissa Malcohn, Joyce Moore, and Loretta C. Rogers

IMPORTANT: All manuscripts read will be based on two things: 1) First received; 2) Adherence to submission requirements: submit four (4) copies of your typed, ONE PAGE, manuscript using 1” margins, and Times New Roman, size 12 font. In the top left corner, write the story title and the genre. You may begin your manuscript at the top of the page. You may single space; however, double space between paragraphs. Please do not write on the back.

All submissions should be received at any Citrus County Library System branch, no later than: Saturday, March 13, 2010, 5:00 P.M.

What is a Cold Read?

Cold Reads are an opportunity for you to hear multi-published, award winning authors’ reactions to your manuscript just as if it hit an agent’s or editor’s desk and you were the fly on the wall. While not a critique service, cold reads are a valuable opportunity to hear inside the minds of how editors and agents might read your work, and to find out just what grabs their interest or generates a rejection.

DOs:

- * Do expect anonymity. It is suggested that you do not put your name on your submission. Even if you do put your name on your submission, it won’t be read out loud.
- * Do listen carefully to what is said about other submissions. It is a valuable insight into what causes an agent or editor to slush-pile or reject a submission.
- * Do listen, take notes, and refrain from asking questions or making comments so that all submissions may be read and commented on.
- * Do remember that the story you might be making fun of to the person sitting next to you may be their work.
- * Do understand that the authors will be honest in their comments about what they are reading.
- * Do expect to pick up your submission at the end of the Cold Read. A comment sheet will be attached to each submission.

DON’Ts:

- * Don’t expect praise. This session is designed to give you the raw reaction from an agent’s/editor’s POV.
- * Don’t get discouraged if your manuscript doesn’t get the reaction you expected. Learn what struck the moderators as wrong and work to make the changes.
- * Don’t despair if yours isn’t read. You can learn a lot from listening to the reaction to others’ work.
- * Don’t stop writing. Revise, improve, and most of all, learn and persevere.