



November 2023 Post-Grad Intensive

## The Book Project Post-Grad Weekend Intensive

Lighthouse Writers Workshop  
3844 York Street  
Denver, CO 80205

### Schedule

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#### Saturday, November 11

##### 9:00 AM—12:00 PM

##### **“Revision Roadmap: Some Techniques to Save Time,” Rachel Weaver, MFA**

You’ve been writing furiously for months (or years) and that glorious day comes when you write the last sentence. Now what? Often what follows is many years of inefficient cutting and pasting, rewriting and moving around and moving back. It’s easy to get caught up in addressing surface problems rather than evaluating the backbone of the story from a crafting standpoint. In this class, we’ll discuss solid techniques to make your revisions as efficient and effective as possible.

**What to prepare:** Have access to your manuscript.

##### 12:00 PM—1:15 PM

##### **Catered Lunch & Writing Time**

##### 1:30 PM—2:30 PM

##### **“Surprising, Yet Inevitable: Endings That Resonate,” Tiffany Quay Tyson**

The ending of your novel or memoir should be satisfying but not predictable, surprising but not unbelievable, truthful but not preachy. A great ending is one that sticks with readers long after they finish reading. We’ll talk about different types of endings and look at examples of powerful endings from both fiction and nonfiction. Writers should bring the final paragraph of their manuscript (if written) and be prepared to re-envision the ending.

**What to prepare:** We’ll reference this essay from Tin House in our discussion: “Parting is Such Sweet Sorrow” by Elissa Schappell (<https://tinhouse.com/endings-parting-is-such-sweet-sorrow/>).

##### 2:30 PM—3:00 PM

##### **Happy Hour**

##### 3:00 PM—3:30 PM

##### **Participant Reading**

Enter your name on the sign-up sheet. We’ll have time for up to ten readers, each reading 500 words from their manuscript.

**3:45 PM—4:45 PM**

**Keynote – “The Path to Publication: A Series of False Summits,” Megan Nix, MFA, in Conversation with Shana Kelly**

Megan Nix got her start working and taking classes at Lighthouse in the 2010s. This year, her first book was published by Doubleday, and has received stellar blurbs and reviews. How did she get here, and how did she keep going when things got challenging? Join us for a wide-ranging talk about her long and rocky path to publication.

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**Sunday, November 12**

**9:00 AM—12:00 PM**

**“Characters and the Conflicts that Propel Them,” Anna Qu, MFA**

Conflict shapes our experience. It’s also a compelling entryway into your story. In our stories, whether fiction or nonfiction, conflict can be subtle. It is often internal. It shows up in our family dynamics, our relationships, especially internally, within ourselves. Of course, conflict is central to all our stories—a turning-point moment, a tragedy, a choice. Writers know conflict is important, but learning to harness it, orient our process to it, and mold it to fit the story we’re trying to tell is a whole other consideration. In this class, we’ll walk you through types of conflicts, and how to use micro and macro conflicts to propel your story, while keeping readers engaged. We’ll analyze the space between tension and conflict in your work, and begin to shape conflict into a guiding craft tool for your book.

**What to bring:** Character arcs or story arcs for your book, if you have them, and be prepared to draw and write.

**12:15 PM—2:15 PM**

**Catered Lunch**

**Book Project Post-Grad Members – Cohort Meeting with Mentor**

**Post-Grad Weekend Guests – Forty-Five Minute Q&A with Shana Kelly and Writing Time**

**2:30 PM—4:15 PM**

**Post-Grad Members, Book Publishing Review with Shana Kelly**

What tools do you need in order to submit to agents and publishers? Let’s dig into how to find the right agents and comps, and strategies for submission. Bring a draft of your query letter to class. Will include some time for Q&A.

**Post-Grad Weekend Guests – Writing Time**

## Guest Speaker

### **Megan Nix, MFA**

Megan Nix is the author of *Remedies for Sorrow: An Extraordinary Child, a Secret Kept from Pregnant Women, and a Mother's Pursuit of the Truth*. Her work has appeared in The New York Times, The Washington Post, The Boston Globe, Brain, Child Magazine, Fourth Genre (where it won the Editors' Prize), The Denver Post, The Iowa Review, and elsewhere. A graduate of the University of Alaska MFA in Nonfiction, she regularly influences health professionals and hospital systems and was the keynote speaker at Moderna, Inc in March 2020. She divides her time between Colorado and Alaska with her husband and young children.

**Buy:** [Remedies for Sorrow](#)