

# WoW Anthology Handbook

*Theme:* Fictional, Small-Town Secrets

The goal is for everyone to feel confident and comfortable having their work in a volume with the other stories.

*Audience:* Upper Young Adults and Adults

*Tone:* PG. No erotica, explicit sex or gore, & limited profanity.

One story per person.

*Length:* 1,500-5,000 words

Varied Points of View

Varied story timeframes (past, present, or future)

Use Chicago Manual of Style

*Final Word on procedures:* Goldie and Stan (that said, we are going to listen to everyone's thoughts.)

*Location:* Small fictional town in central Missouri (middle of state N/S and E/W). Prairie land to the north, Ozark forests to the south. Near the Missouri River. Small town with Main Street and one stoplight

Everyone is to at least reference *some* of the town's characters and locations.

*Town name:* Deciding on Saturday, July 22

*Town Businesses:* See town map that Stephanie created (on last page). Also see the character profiles Stan created.

City Hall (containing mayor's office), Police Station, Bank, General Store, Doctor's Clinic, Restaurant Hangout (coffee in the mornings, working men and women at noon, and kids and teens later), Several Churches, Library, Post Office, Gas Station (convenience store, which is another gathering place with tables in one corner), Beauty/Barber Shop (Hairway to Heaven), Bait & Tackle Shop (Mayor is also owner of the bait shop, which is another meeting place for locals... there are tables in one corner), School (K-12 in one building), Park with creek.

### ***Story Exclusivity:***

We do not want to have to unpublish our anthology at any time in the future.

We will enroll the ebook in Kindle Unlimited for one year. During this year, we ask that you not publish your story anywhere else (KU is exclusive). After this one year, we will remove the book from KU, and you may publish your story elsewhere, *as long as it is non-exclusive*. This means that you should only publish the story in such a way that it does *not* preclude us from continuing to have the story in our anthology. For example, you must not include your story in a collection enrolled in Kindle Unlimited. Or, you cannot enter your story in a contest that requires the story *not* be published anywhere else.

### **Buying and Selling Author Copies of the *print version*:**

- Author copies will cost between \$3 and \$4.50 each, depending on page number (plus shipping).
- We will order author copies in bulk to minimize shipping costs per book. Before October 27, each of you will tell us how many you want to purchase.
- Authors will pay for the number of copies they wish to order (\$\$ for each book: printing cost + shipping cost + sales tax (on author copy price) + \$1 donated to Writers of Warrensburg, to pay for promotional efforts, projects, taxes, etc.).
- When you sell the books you ordered, you keep *all* the money (unless you have to pay a % to a bookstore where you are doing a signing).
- For obvious reasons, we ask that all authors sell their own print copies for the *same price!* We will determine this price at a later date, based on the printing costs, but it will be somewhere in the range of \$13 to \$15. Enough for you to make a profit even when you have to pay a percentage to a bookstore or other venue.

## **What we mean when we say PG?**

Our goal is to produce an anthology that will appeal to the greatest number of readers who would have an interest in the small-town secrets theme. We believe the following guidelines will help the group achieve this.

Our anthology is going with a PG rating focusing on older teens and adult readers. We are leaning more toward intriguing our readers and making them think, rather than scaring or grossing them out.

This means stories can contain material not suitable for children, but not so terrible that a mature teen or your aged auntie will scream, “My eyes! My eyes!” at the end.

Further explanations...

Violence can be included, but it should be used more of as a part of the story rather than the whole plot. This means you can have a fight or a punch or even a death, but no truly detailed examples or loose eyeballs or limbs flying about.

Profanity should be limited and integral to the plot. Try not to employ harsher “sexually-derived words” if possible and none directed repeatedly toward a person or group. This will likely leave out any drill sergeant characters.

Avoid hate speech toward races, genders, religions, or dogs. Every reader will hate you if you mess with the pets.

Hold nudity to non-existent or vague descriptions. Robes are a wonderful thing.

Sexual situations should be limited and occur behind closed doors or in non-descript description. Tell us it happened if you must, but not exactly how.

Looking forward to thrilling readers with the strengths of our plots, characters, dialogue, and exciting twists at the end.

## Timeline

*July 22:* WoW Anthology Workshop—Official story-writing start date!

*September 1:* Stories are due to the group. IMPORTANT: ***Should be edited to the best of your ability.***

*September 1-October 7:* Editing. Each story edited by three different group members, one at a time, with the author making the suggested changes in between each round of editing OR three editing at same time and final look over by Stan and/or Goldie.

*October 7-15:* Proofread review by final editors.

*October 15:* All stories and author bios are fully edited and ready to publish.

*October 16-17:* Format ebook and print book.

*October 18-21:* Send ebook and PDF of print book to participating authors for final feedback.

*October 22-23:* Publish ebook and print book on Amazon.

*October 24:* Order one print copy as a proof (regular Amazon order—not an author copy)

*October 27:* Ebook Release Date!

*October 27:* Put in an order for Author Copies (each author pays for as many as they personally want). Author copies are much less expensive.

*November 15:* Author copies will arrive by this date

*November 19:* Book signing at *Reader's World* in Sedalia

More group events to follow.

## Six Town Characters

(Please mention or show one or more of these characters in your story, and please include some of the other town characteristics and geography, guided by this handbook and Stephanie's map)

### **Police Chief:**

Charlie Goodyear Age: 67 Weight: 255 pounds (he's somewhat out of shape). Caucasian

His wife's name is Charlene Goodyear. She works at the police station (she does a bit of everything there)

Charlie and Charlene live only three houses away from the Police Station.

Charlie is known for his sense of humor and his lackadaisical attitude toward his job. This little town has, in the past, had relatively little crime, and he has gotten used to having few serious problems to deal with.

In his spare time, Charlie carves figurines out of wood. His figurines are all over town.

Charlie took the police chief job at the age of thirty, in 1985.

As of 2022, Charlie hopes to retire in two years, in 2024 (keep this in mind if your story takes place before 1985 or after 2024).



Charlie

### **Police Officer:**

Eduardo Sanz Age: 30 Weight: 180 pounds Mexican descent

Eduardo is the only police officer other than Charlie. He has lived in this town all his life, and he has never wanted to go anywhere else. He has three older brothers and two older sisters, but they have all moved to other towns. His father has passed away, and his mother still lives in this town.

Eduardo loves his job, and he loves talking to all the people. He takes the job very seriously (sometimes to a fault), and he sometimes gets frustrated with Charlie's laid-back attitude about policing.

Eduardo is sure he will become the police chief when Charlie retires.



Eduardo

**Beautician (owner of “Hairway to Heaven” beauty salon):**

Marcy Oates Age: 59 Weight: 165 pounds Caucasian Short, brown hair (she dyes it weekly)

Marcy has owned *Hairway to Heaven* for 26 years (since 1996). It’s been the only beauty salon in town for all those years, and Marcy is the only employee.

Marcy loves classic rock music (especially Led Zeppelin), and she always has classic rock playing in her shop. She is unmarried and lives alone (she likes to say that she can hardly keep up with all her customers and would never have time for a bothersome husband and kids)

Marcy knows all the latest gossip, and she is notorious for spreading rumors and factual gossip all the time to her customers. She is the go-to person for information about everyone in town, as well as past events.

Marcy is often seen riding her pink scooter around town:



Marcy

**Postmaster:**

Willard Cuthbert

Age: 47 Weight: 195 pounds Caucasian

Willard is another person who knows all the gossip and latest news of the town. He is very talkative, and he engages every person who enters the post office in extensive conversation. He always knows when someone has interesting or unusual items in the mail. He knows most people’s anniversaries and birthdays just based on all the cards that they receive.

Willard lives with his wife Ida Cuthbert in a house right behind the post office.

Ida is an elementary teacher in the only school (K-12) in town.



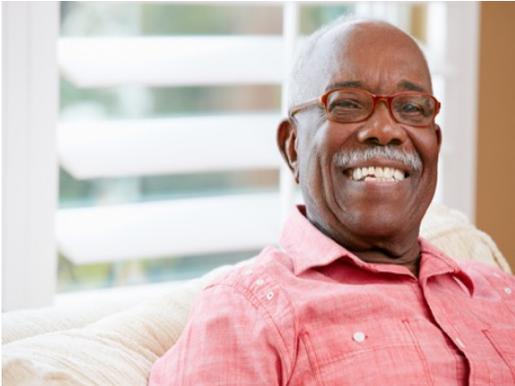
Willard

**Rusty Bartleby** Age: 77      Weight: 205 pounds      African American

Rusty retired 15 years ago (in 2007) from being Superintendent of the local school district (he was a high school English teacher before being Superintendent).

Rusty's wife Silvia died 11 years ago, in 2011.

For the last 11 years, Rusty has spent most of his time sitting in the local cafe, sitting at one of the two tables in the corner of the convenience store/gas station, hanging around the post office, and sitting at the table in the local bait shop. Why? Because these are places where he always has people to talk to. Everyone in town knows him, and he knows everyone. He's a long-time member of the Rusty Zippers club—a loosely organized group of retired men who meet every morning at one of these locations to drink coffee and talk. Lots and lots of talking... that's what Rusty loves to do.



Rusty

**Mayor/ Moody's Bait & Tackle Shop Owner:**

Virginia Moody

Age: 35      Weight: 150 pounds      Caucasian

Virginia is in her third term as mayor, mainly because no one else volunteered for the job (it is not a paid position). She owns and runs Moody's Bait & Tackle, which also happens to be a meeting place where people often gather to visit.

Virginia's husband is named Kevin, but no one knows much about him. She never talks about him, and he *never* comes into the bait shop, even though the couple lives only three blocks away. No one even knows where he works, although they see him leave the house and drive out of town every morning and return in the evening. When people ask Virginia about him, her standard response is, "I'd tell you all about it, but then I'd have to kill you."



Mayor Virginia

