

Alida Winternheimer



Award-Winning Author and Advocate for Women's Stories

Meet Alida, your guide to mastering the art of storytelling. With an an MLS and MFA in Writing, two novels, two indispensable craft books, and numerous literary journal publications, Alida brings a lifetime of dedication to the written word. Over the past 12+ years, she has mentored writers of all levels as a professional Developmental Editor and Story Craft Coach, helping authors shape their vision into polished works of fiction and nonfiction. Whether teaching workshops locally—in colleges, high schools, senior centers, or even Minnesota prisons—or connecting with writers worldwide through her online platform, Word Essential, her personalized approach empowers you to achieve your creative goals. Alida is the writer's writer, who knows what it takes to elevate your craft. Whether you're starting your first book or your fifteenth, she's the expert you want in your corner.

Key Highlights

- **Novelist:** character driven literary, mystery, and historical fictions that explore dark themes with heart and emotional depth.
- **Literary Recognition:** Winner of the Page Turner Award, recipient of the Confluence Prize, three-time Pushcart Prize nominee, and a notable in Best American Essays.
- **Craft Authority:** Author of two essential writing guides (*The Story Works Guide to Writing Character* and *The Story Works Guide to Writing Point of View*), trusted by writers at all stages of their journey.
- **Podcast Host:** Creator and host of Story Works Round Table, with over 300 episodes full of actionable advice on writing craft and the creative process.

What Makes Alida Stand Out

- **Powerful Themes:** Her novels blend the ordinary and the extraordinary, exploring grief, resilience, and the secrets we carry with a focus on women and the journey through self-discovery to real freedom.
- **Unique Storytelling:** From ghostly mysteries to women's literary fiction, Alida's stories defy formula and captivate readers with vivid settings, complex characters, and unexpected depth.
- **Media Savvy:** Alida is an engaging speaker on topics including story craft, the writing life, and the intersection of art and healing.

Topics Alida Can Speak or Write About

- Sharing your story with voice and heart.
- Crafting authentic characters with emotional resonance.
- The transformative role of storytelling in processing grief.
- Breaking genre boundaries in literary and genre fiction.
- Story craft, from the basics of structure to the nuances of voice.
- Turning real life into fiction.
- Research from the "armchair," when there is no other way and what to do about it.

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Darkly Themed Fiction with Heart, Depth, and Unforgettable Characters

Alida is a highly regarded author, speaker, and writing coach whose novels explore the intricacies of relationships, untold stories, and the power of art and resilience. Known for crafting richly atmospheric tales with emotional depth, Alida's work resonates with readers who crave stories that linger long after the last page.



About *A Stone's Throw*:

In *A Stone's Throw*, two women—an artist in Minneapolis and a homemaker in London—are brought together through magical realism to heal their emotional wounds. This richly layered novel explores motherhood, grief, art, and the bonds that transcend time and space. A must-read for fans of character-driven, emotionally resonant fiction.

“Beautifully rendered and astute in its contrasts and insights, *A Stone's Throw* is a top pick for readers interested in art, motherhood, and relationships both connected to and challenged by circumstance, trauma, and recovery.”

-D. Donovan, Senior Reviewer, Midwest Book Review



About *Murder in Skoghall*:

Murder in Skoghall is a dark, gripping mystery that blends ghostly intrigue, psychic abilities, and small-town charm. Jessica Vernon is determined to rebuild her life in the wake of divorce, but the woman haunting her farmhouse has other plans for her. This story delves into themes of PTSD, renewal, and the power of home.

“A truly compelling read.” *Murder in Skoghall* is a multifaceted mystery that will appeal beyond the usual genre reader. Alida's ability to balance vivid small-town experiences with moments of paranormal suspense and ironic humor makes this an exceptional addition to both mystery and paranormal fiction collections.

“*Murder in Skoghall* is especially recommended for libraries seeking exceptional books that are well developed, featuring strong characters and realistic settings designed to appeal well beyond the usual reader of murder mysteries.”

-D. Donovan, Senior Reviewer, Midwest Book Review

Connect with Alida

Invite Alida to speak, teach, or present at your event. Reach out for an interview.

Read published stories and essays: AlidaWinternheimer.com/read

List of events, articles, and appearances: AlidaWinternheimer.com/media

Podcast: StoryWorksPodcast.com

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