



Writing Software Showdown

The Best Tools for Writing Novels, Screenplays, and Comics

Write or Die 2

by Dr. Wicked

Write or Die 2

Grace Period



Is

Reward Consequence Stimulus

Sound

Alarming

Image

Spiders

Options

Familiar Mode

Startle Mode



MINUTES

45 wpm

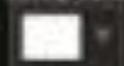
2700

WORD GOAL

Settings State Saving

Color Picker

background

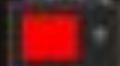


Text



Warning

Warning



Preview

It was a dark and stormy night...

Victory Mode

None Relax Rest Celebrate

Disable Surrender

WPM Meter

Typewriter Mode

\$20

Buy!

Keystroke mode will start smacking your words until you start writing again

Follow us on Twitter: @wicked_games or Facebook: @wicked_games or YouTube: @wicked_games

500 words

15 minutes

Consequence Mode

Try

Who We Are

Ben Lane Hodson

- Writer of the comic series: **Shutter**, **8-Bit**, **Bukeey**, & the soon to be released **Blood & Glory**.
- Writer of short film **Marooned** (winner of Houston International Film Festival).
- First novel **Tales of the Macabre West** to be published in summer 2014.

BenLaneHodson.com

Cindy Grigg

- Writer and content expert for **Office Software Suites** for **About.com**.

Office.About.com

CindyGrigg.com

- Writer of **The Saltair Paradox** series, a science fiction time travel mystery with a good dose of romance!

[Find AVIATRIX on Amazon](#)

What You'll Learn In This Session

Software and technology options are legion. We hope to connect you with the chosen few.

Our goal is to give you:

- Our top software picks for novels, screenplays, and comics.
- Exposure to tools you may not know about.
- Productivity tips and tools we've learned along the way.

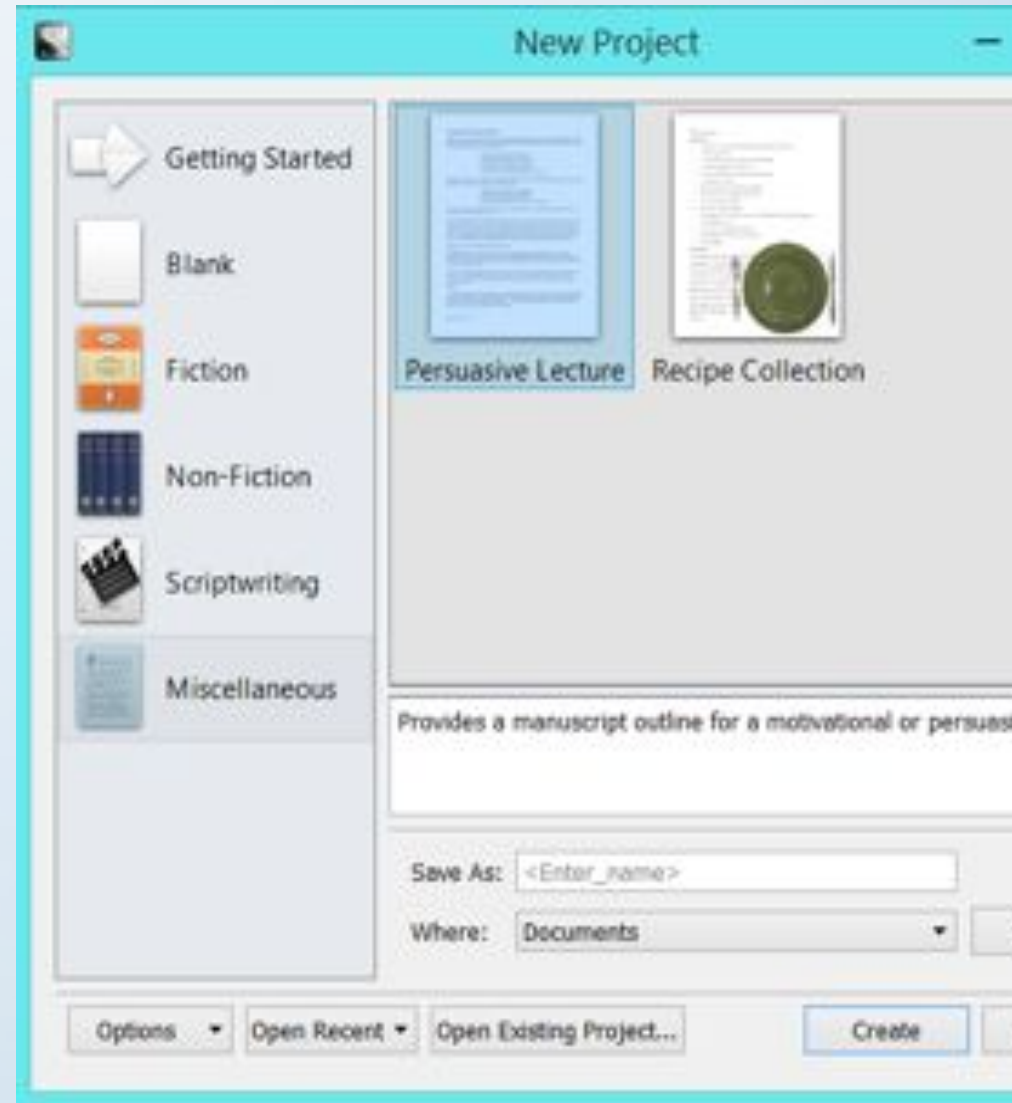
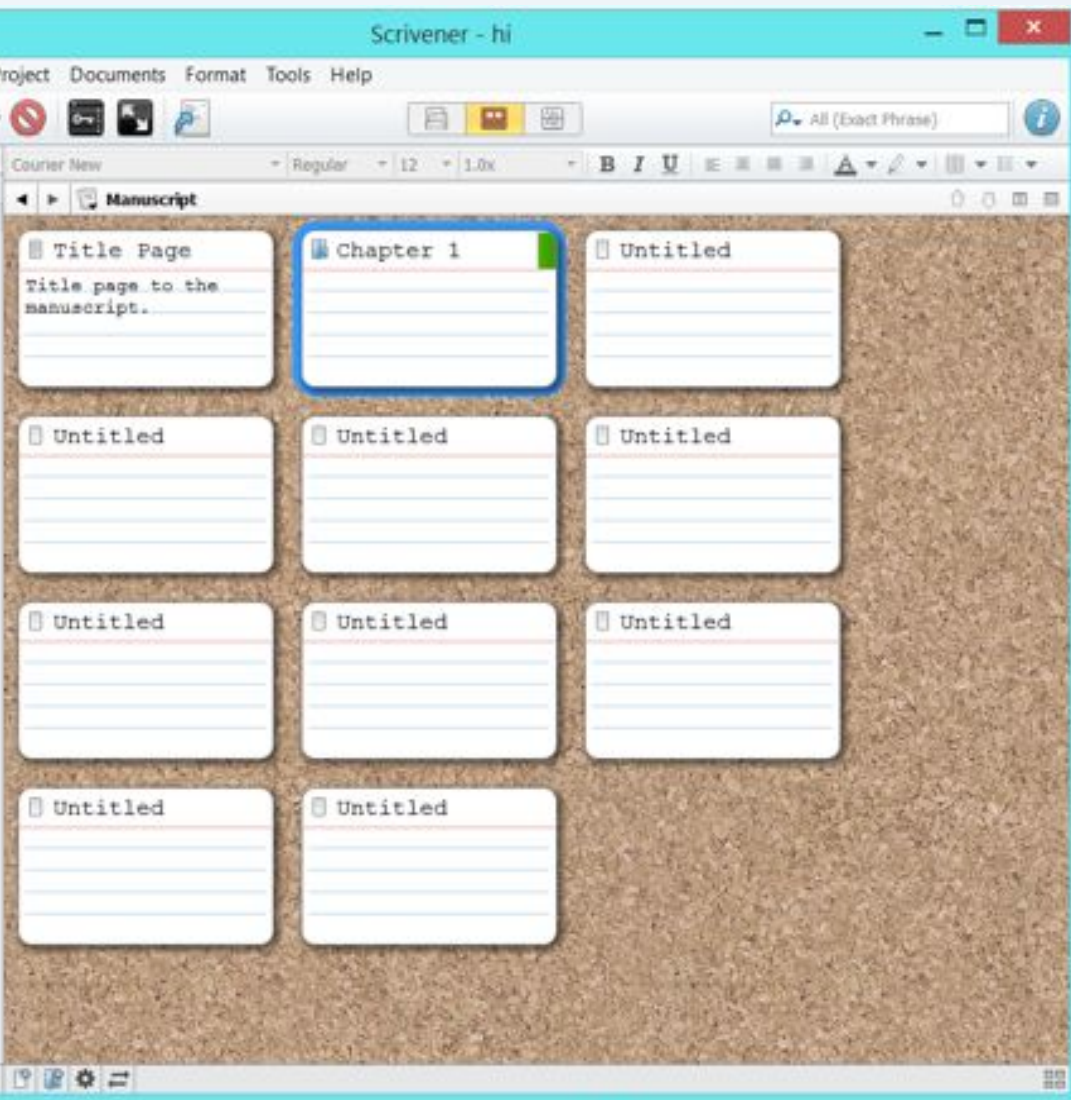
Software For Novels, Novellas, Short Stories...



Types of Software for Novels

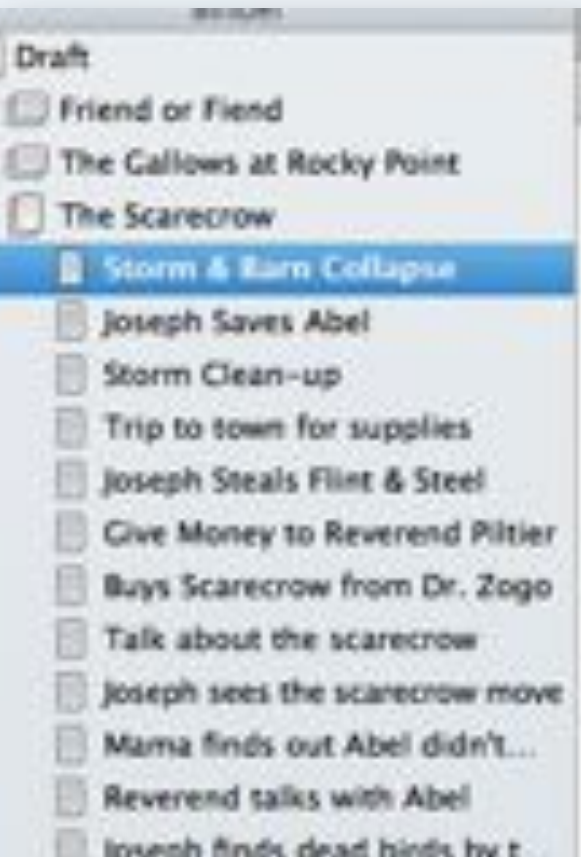
- Drafting
 - Software for Outliners – Scrivener (\$40)
 - Software for Pantsers
 - Word 2013 (Free - \$90+)
 - Google Docs (Free)

Scrivener

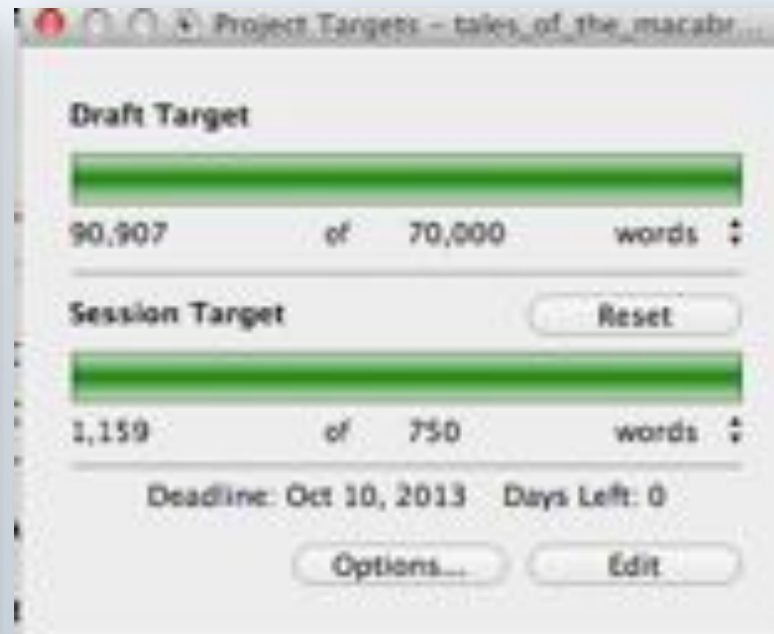


Scrivener

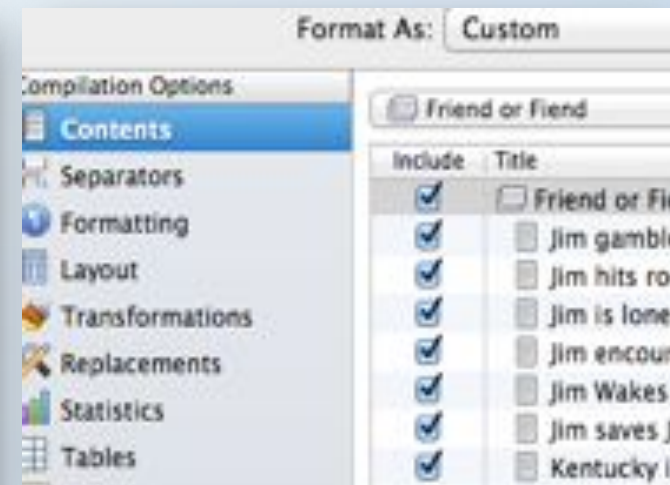
Novel Organization



Word Goals



Print / eBook Compiling



Microsoft Word 2013

Microsoft Word 2013 interface showing a document titled "Saltair/Cindy Grigg". The ribbon includes FILE, HOME, INSERT, DESIGN, PAGE LAYOUT, REFERENCES, MAILINGS, REVIEW, and VIEW. The font is Times New Roman, size 12. The document content is centered and reads:

Saltair/Cindy Grigg

THE SALT AIR PARADOX

~ A Beatrice Bentz Adventure ~

AVIATRIX

Volume 1

by

Cindy Grigg

[ARCII Publishing](#)

Salt Lake City, Utah

The left navigation pane shows a search bar and a table of contents:

HEADINGS PAGES RESULTS

THE SALT AIR PARADOX

- A Beatrice Bentz Adventure -
- AVIATRIX
- Volume 1
- Cindy Grigg
- ARCII Publishing
- Salt Lake City, Utah
- "When you perceive a truth, look for..."
- John Emeric Edward Dalberg, AC...

TABLE OF CONTENTS

THE SALT AIR PARADOX

- A Beatrice Bentz Adventure -
- AVIATRIX
- Stansbury Map of The Great Salt Lak...
- About The Beatrice Bentz Series
 - Chapter 1: A Paradox of Faith
 - Chapter 2: A Paradox of Planning
 - Chapter 3: A Paradox of Misapph...
 - Chapter 4: A Paradox of Help
 - Chapter 5: A Paradox of Activity
 - Chapter 6: A Paradox of Speed
 - Chapter 7: A Paradox of Partner...
 - Chapter 8: A Paradox of Opposit...

PAGE 1 OF 200 | ARCII WORDS

Google Docs

Cindy Grigg - A Paradox of Oasis

File Edit View Insert Format Tools Table **Help** All changes saved in Drive

Comments  

100% Normal text Times New Roman 11

Chapter 9: Oasis

The emerald pool was the uppermost of three. It sat **nestled like an amulet in the red rock grotto** above Mukuntuweap National Monument as Beatrice had grown up knowing it, before the United States Congress had their say about it. Now it was Zion Canyon in Zion National Park. It was as beautiful as it was blistering. But here was an unlikely, charred oasis. Wildflowers worshipped the shade and though impressive boulders were strewn all about the area, soft sand enclosed the viridian water.

While Addison took it all in, Beatrice walked straight for a sheer, amaranthine wall where she stood in the shallow water until their eyes met. **She then sat down cross-legged but only torso-deep and her black dress wafted up around her knees like a lily pad of lace.** She was in a kind of standing chair, a submerged incline of rock one would only **discover exploring every inch** of the place.

They maintained their mutual stare even as he removed his shoes and followed her over, his eyes diverting occasionally to navigate the terrain but hers stayed on him like jammed gears. His eyes had a steady confidence more striking in person than when she just thought about him, which she'd been doing a lot of since their discovering the volcano. **Just now,** his usually animated face had relaxed into something much more content and vulnerable.

Locking eyes with Addison was like seeing one's invention emerge even more wonderfully than she had sketched it.

He got in the water, sitting too close to her, and reached out for her foot with his. Beatrice didn't squeal or push him away, but surprised him by wrapping her foot against

mattbrownbay
8:20 AM '12
Visit active description I like it!

Lisa Collier
8:20 PM '12
Fantastic description

Lisa Sledge
8:25 PM '12
This seems a little wordy and doesn't flow from the moment. Is there a more concise way of conveying this information?

Lisa Collier
8:26 PM '12
Good historical viewpoint

Ben Hodson
8:48 PM '12
I like this contrast. One thought, this might actually be one sentence instead of two.

Jessica Clark
8:50 PM '12
The Emerald Grotto, Mukuntuweap National Monument, Zion National Park

SOFTWARE FOR SCREENPLAYS



Software for Screenplays

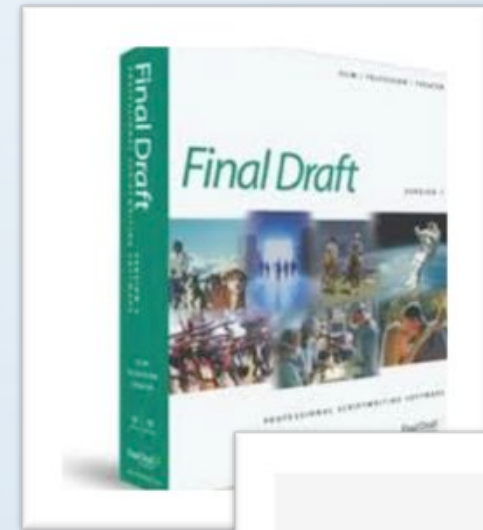
How Screenplay writing differs from prose

- Formatting
- No inner thoughts
- Don't include shot notes (mid, wide, close-up)
- Be visual / 1 page per minute

Popular Screenplay Software

- Final Draft (\$249.99)
- Movie Draft SE (\$29.99)
- Celtx Script (\$19.99)

Recommendation: **Final Draft Pro**



Software for Screenplays

SCENE 1: A HOT MEAL

On board the Signus Five Interstellar Mining vessel. View out the window at the front of the ship as it slowly spins on its axis in a lurching forward motion.

Cut to: sirens going off in the background. Warning lights flash as they spin on the ceiling.

Back on ship: space moves by as the ship spins.

Cut to: close up on a door control lever with a large button that reads: "Seal Door". The sirens are louder now.

VOICE OVER INTERCOM
Quarantine in effect... Virus
containment imminent...

Back on ship: More space passes by the view port.

Cut to: Raimus' hand pressing the button to seal the outer door. Feet run up to the door as it closes. Hands bang on the other side of the door. Raimus' parents faces are in the door's small window. He hears their muffled voices.

FATHER
Son! Let us in! Please!

MOTHER
Why are you doing this? We're not
sick!

Back on ship: Title of the film, MAROONED, passes by the view port as the ship spins ever more. The camera turns around and slowly moves down the corridor toward the lights in the back cabin.

Close up. Shaking hands search a bin for food. A small, clear plastic pouch with rice is picked up. The last one in the bin. A little red button on the top of the packet is pressed. The rice suddenly heats up and the packet fills with steam. The dimly lit room casts a pale gray on the flesh tones of the hands preparing the rice. The rice is emptied into a small bowl.

A low light barely illuminates the cramped space ship.

DEEKS
Raimus. Captain Raimus. Wake up.



Final Draft Pro

Formatting

EXT. MOUNTAINSIDE - AFTERNOON

A withered and wrinkled hand struggles to grasp jagged rocks. OLD MAN sweats as he tries to pull himself up the mountain. He looks down to see how far he's come. It's less than he thought.

EXT. FOREST - LATE AFTERNOON

GRANDSON
He's this way grandpa.

GRANDSON pulls OLD MAN by the hand. The GRANDSON's dog lays sick on the ground.

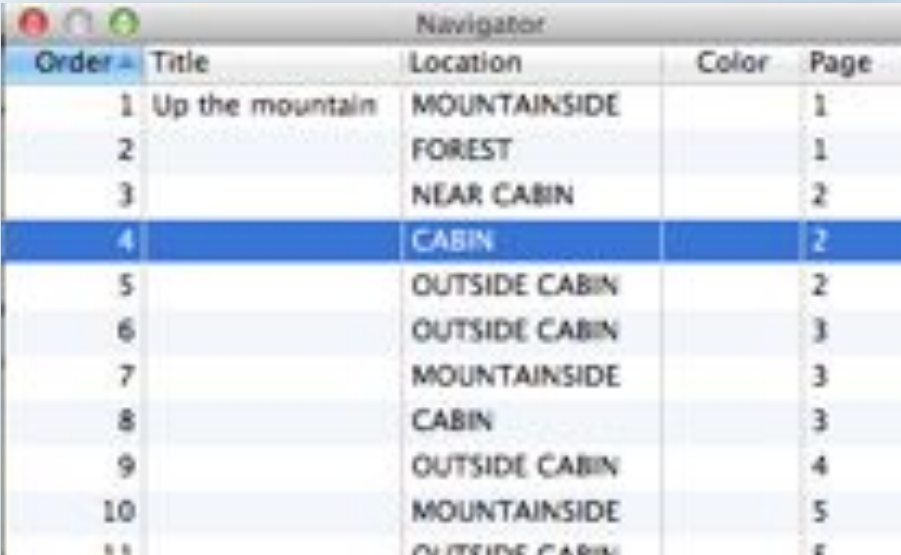
GRANDSON (CONT'D)
He won't get up.

OLD MAN examines DOG. He pulls its mouth open and finds pieces of grass on its teeth. There is some blood and vomit next to DOG. OLD MAN looks at the chewed grass closely.

OLD MAN
He's been eating Tacket weed. Very poisonous.

GRANDSON
Will he die?

Scene Navigator



Order	Title	Location	Color	Page
1	Up the mountain	MOUNTAINSIDE		1
2		FOREST		1
3		NEAR CABIN		2
4		CABIN		2
5		OUTSIDE CABIN		2
6		OUTSIDE CABIN		3
7		MOUNTAINSIDE		3
8		CABIN		3
9		OUTSIDE CABIN		4
10		MOUNTAINSIDE		5
11		OUTSIDE CABIN		5

Mobile and Alternative Tools...



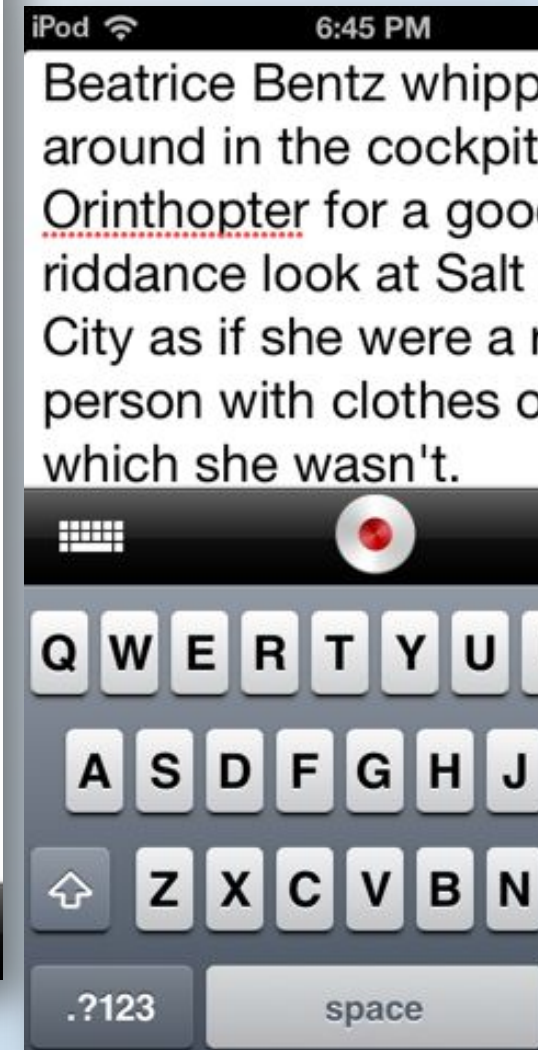
Alternative Writing Methods

Speech to Text – Speaking
our Story

SmartPens - LiveScribe

OCR – Optical Character
Recognition

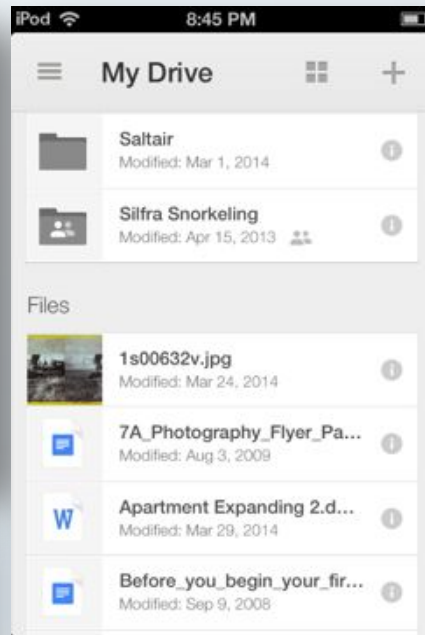
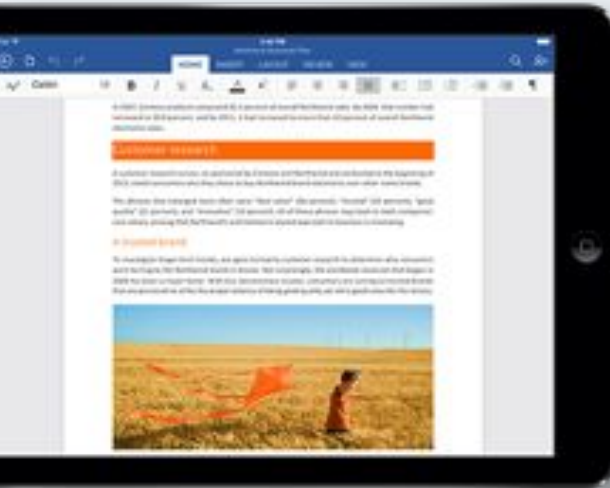
Linking



Apps and Mobile

Drafting

Notetaking



Prompts

PlainText

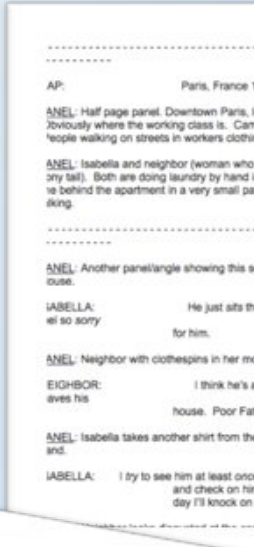
writer

SOFTWARE FOR COMIC BOOKS



Software For Comic Writing

- Writing, Layout, & Comic Story Design
 - Page turners
 - Issue cliffhangers
 - Panel design / sequential art
 - Script -> Roughs -> Pencils -> Inks -> Colors -> Bubbles
- Popular Comic Writing Software
 - Microsoft Word (\$9.99 per month)
 - Celtx Script (\$19.99)
 - Final Draft (\$249.99)
- Recommendation: **Celtx Script**



Celtx Script

Formatting

Page 1 Agent Orange and Agent Black are having a conversation at the OSI lunchroom about their boss, Marty Stull, who may be a bit too perfect.

Panel 1 Marty Stull is chatting with an underling in the foreground. Orange and Black are having lunch in the background. Orange is scowling.

AGENT ORANGE: Marty Stull infuriates me.

AGENT BLACK: But he's so thoughtful! How could you hate him?

Panel 2 Same shot.

AGENT ORANGE: What could make someone open a free puppy-adoption agency, cure AIDS and win a Medal of Honor? Nothing but evil, I assure you.

Panel 3 Marty and his conversant are yukking it up, having what appears to be a fun and light-hearted conversation.

Script Tagging

The screenshot displays the Celtx software interface. On the left, the 'Project Library' pane shows a list of project files: 'Wonderful Wizard of Oz (Fil...', 'Master Catalog (12)', 'Character Catalog (4)', 'Novel (Sample)', 'Screenplay', 'Storyboard', 'Production Schedule', 'Stageplay', 'Research Photos', and 'Bookmarks'. The 'Novel (Sample)' file is selected. On the right, the 'Action' pane shows the script text with tags: 'EXT. FORES', 'DOROTHY,' (in red), 'forest in', 'Man carri', 'yellow br', 'leaves. T', and 'They hear'.

Blood & Glory

Snow covers the forest floor. A dark forest with lots of trees and a light snow falls. A group of British soldiers walks the frozen tundra, their heads down, guns on their shoulders. (6 of them).

ia. January 1944.

1: Perspective is from the trees, as if someone was in the forest looking through the branches onto the group below.

2: Tom Hegland and Damien Taylor (friends in the group of soldiers) walk next to each other. Hegland is a medic and Taylor is an infantry soldier.

3: Morris (another infantry soldier in the group) yells from behind Hegland and Taylor.

MORRIS yells to me again

Hey, Hegland. why you don't

4: Taylor is frustrated

TAYLOR Come on, Morris will ya?

5: Hegland gives Taylor a pat on the back. Right.





“Being like everybody is the same as being nobody.”

- Rod Serling

Advice for Writers

- *Write every day*
- *Connect with other writers or readers every day*
- *Read A LOT*
- *Define your goals as a writer*
- *Study the craft of writing*
- *Make a soundtrack*
- *Blogging, social media, and networking*
- *Finish a project*



Questions?

benlanelhodson.co

cindygrigg.com

Novels

Drafts & Revision

Outline

Synopsis	Status
Storm & Barn Collapse Abel is 16 years old, the oldest of his family. His father died a year ago of a long illness. He's planting corn seeds when a storm hits. His younger brother Joseph wants to help but Abel tells him he can do it by himself. He gathers the tools to the barn. The barn collapses on him after a lightning strike. He's buried inside.	First Draft
Joseph Saves Abel Abel is knocked out. Joseph finds him in the dark and frees him from the debris. Abel's ribs are bruised.	First Draft
Storm Clean-up Abel's family's only milking cow was killed in the storm. They're already struggling with this, a particularly hard blow. They begin the clean up from the storm. Their scarecrow was destroyed and the birds are devouring the freshly planted corn seeds.	First Draft
Abel goes to town for supplies Abel's family realizes they're going to need supplies. Abel gets ready to go into town. Joseph begs to come along with Abel. Milly (mother) says that Abel has to take the children with him. Milly (their mother) gives Joseph some money to take to the reverend Pittier in town. Both Joseph and Noel (their youngest brother) come with Abel to town.	First Draft
Joseph Steals Flint & Steel At the county store, Abel tells Mr. Velp, the store owner, what supplies they need. While purchasing the items, Joseph takes some flint & steel without paying for it. When they are leaving, Abel finds out Joseph has stolen the flint and is angry. He forces Joseph to go confront Mr. Velp about it. Against Abel's will, Mr. Velp makes a deal with Joseph to come work for him to pay it off and let's him keep the flint & steel in the bargain.	First Draft
Abel Gives Money to Reverend Pittier When asked that they stop by the church on the way home and donate the money they gave them to Reverend Pittier (a close friend of Abel's father), Joseph reminds Abel who begrudgingly goes to the church. Abel says he must be the one to give the money to the reverend. He goes in by himself and talks to the reverend but decides to keep the money for the family. Abel is wary of religion and thinks it would be crazy to give this money away when their family needs it so badly. He tells Joseph when he tells him he gave the money to the reverend.	First Draft
Abel Finds Scarecrow from Dr. Zogo On their way home, they see a cart on the side of the road selling things. The man	First Draft

Layout

The clouds gathered and the wind kicked up dust into Abel's eyes as he drove the plow forward. The bit of morning sun was now eclipsed by the shadows of ever increasing clouds blanketing the sky. The sweat on Abel's shirtless back cooled in the growing breeze.

He drove the mule forward, finishing the line, and then stopping to wipe his forehead with the top of his tattered hat. He looked back at the row wincing at a couple of the crooked spots that were more noticeable now that he could see the entire line. Papa would have done it better.

The old scarecrow flittered in the wind, its ragged wool overcoat marked with a patchwork of sewn-on pieces of cloth. The straw had fallen from the misshapen head over the years so that it looked more of a deflated ball at this point. The painted grin peeled and flaked now resembled half a cheshire cat. It hung slightly to one side, the wooden pole it sat upon rotting where it had been placed so many years ago.

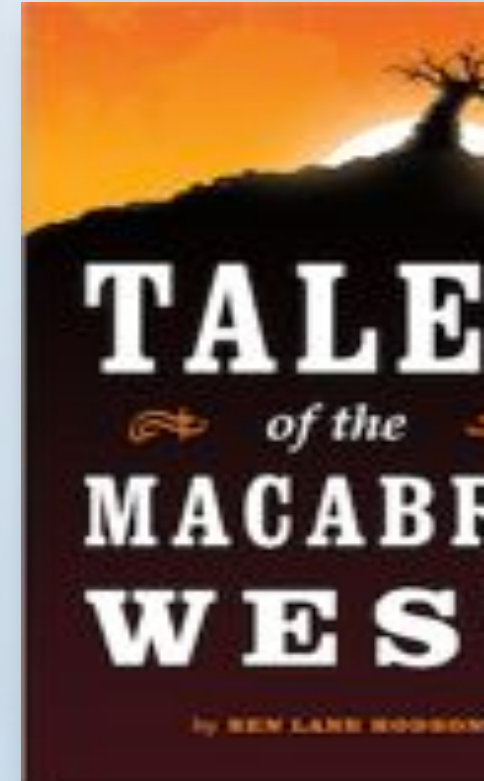
Joseph came running onto the field, yelling something that Abel could not quite make out. The wind carried the words off before they could reach him. He tiptoed forward, careful not to step on the newly planted seeds.

"Abel. Abel." Joseph panted in between the words, trying to catch his breath.

"Now hold on there," said Abel as he knelt down to be eye to eye with his little brother.

"Momma says there is a big storm coming."

"Don't I know it." He put his hand on Joseph's shoulder. "Alright, I best get the animals safe in the barn."



Collaboration

- Collaborating (Writers Groups, Co-authoring, etc)
 - Real-time – Google Docs, Office Online (Free)
 - Webinar – GoToMeeting, Adobe Connect (Varies)

Poetica.com



Have an account? [Sign in](#)

Make words easy.

Get a little help from your friends.

Enter your email

Sign up

Poetica is in limited access beta. Sign up to get your invitation.



SOFTWARE FOR EBOOKS



eBook Software - SIGIL



The screenshot displays the SIGIL eBook software interface. The title bar reads "AvatarX 24 epub - Sigil". The menu bar includes "File", "Edit", "Insert", "Format", "Search", "Tools", "View", "Window", and "Help". The toolbar contains various icons for editing and navigation. The left sidebar shows a "Text" pane with a list of sections, and a "Styles" pane with categories like "Images", "Fonts", "Audio", "Video", "Misc", "Table", and "Content". The main content area shows the following text:

Chapter 1



A SPECTACLE OF FAITH

By [Author Name]

Beatrice Bentz whipped around in the cockpit of the Grinnopter for a good noodge look at Salt Lake City, as if she were a regular person with clothes on—

Which she wasn't.

She closed her eyes for a moment, registering just how much the skin on one's back could meld to a hot leather seat. Before the flight, she had placed packing paper beneath her but not behind. Not the wisest move for a woman wearing nothing but her aviator goggles.

Beatrice was well aware of the fashions of flight. She respected, for example, that Helene Dutrieu "the Girl Hawk" abandoned her corset in favor of movement. Edith Spencer-Kavanaugh "the Cardinal of the Sky" favored a vivid, iconic red vest and skirt. Amelia Earhart "the Lady Lindy" favored a scarf and button-up shirt beneath her bomber jacket. But on her 27th birthday, April 15, 1924, Beatrice Bentz favored her birthday suit.

The desert wind whipped her face as the stinging pain mounted. Beatrice wasn't one to swear, but she let out some fingers. Each dirty word felt gummy on her mouth as though trapped in the vivacious, melty pink lipstck she kept applying out of nervous habit. Her flying lipstck.

Her co-pilot Afs, the mostly normal teacup pig, feathered his ears and blinked in disappointment at her latest moral compromise. He was neatly strapped into a harness in the same seat as Beatrice even though this was a two-seat trainer plane.

You're out of control, he seemed to chafe, giving her naked skin a condescending blink-over.

At the bottom of the window, there is a search and navigation panel with fields for "Find" and "Replace", and checkboxes for "Ignore", "Match", "Match Case", "Match Whole", and "Match All". The status bar at the bottom right shows "110%".