

Tahoe Writing Intensive for the Novelist

For beginning to intermediate writers

**September 14-18, 2016
South Lake Tahoe, California**

A writing retreat doesn't get any better than this! Come and join author, editor, and writing coach C. S. Lakin for a four-day exquisite Tahoe vacation and writing retreat.



Get inspired, instructed, and refreshed at this top vacation destination as you learn the nuts and bolts of novel structure, work on your ideas and work in progress, get great feedback, ideas, and brainstorming help on your novel—all at one of the most beautiful lake resort areas in the US!

Spend your mornings in intensive instruction, your afternoons writing, your early evenings in discussion, and your nights relaxing—soaking in the hot tub, working on your writing, taking in a show, or enjoying all the South Shore has to offer.

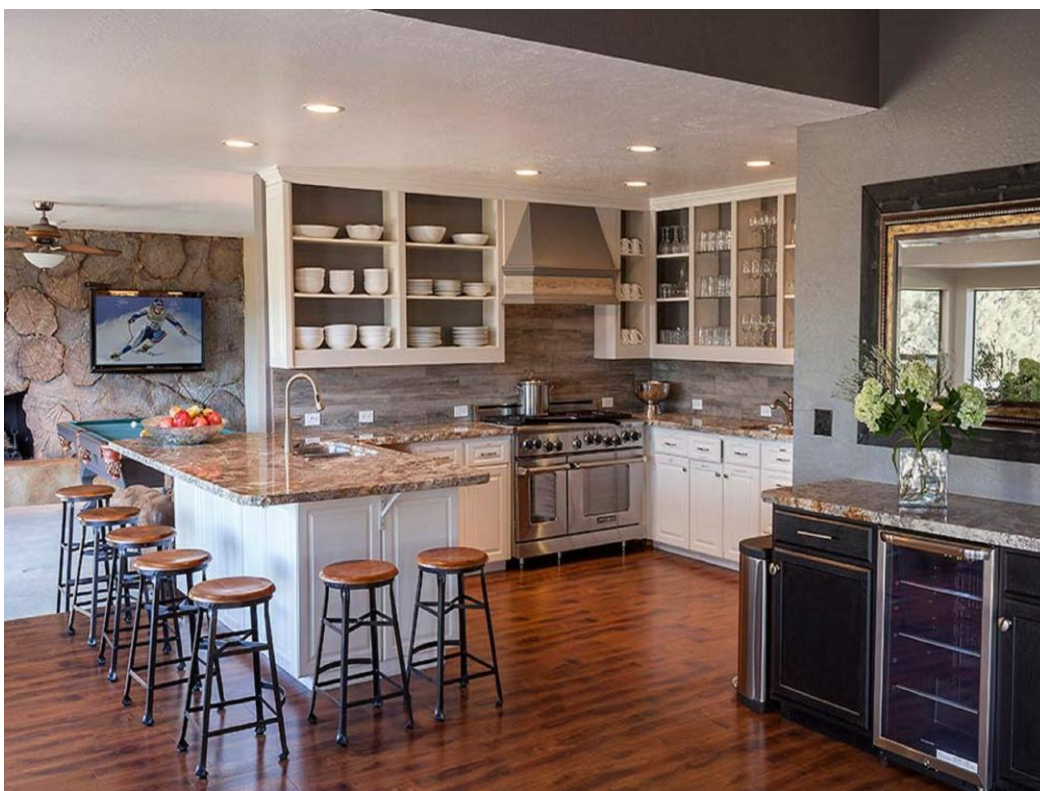
Here's what's included:

- Four nights in a luxurious lake-view custom home in South Lake Tahoe near the lake, casinos, and great outdoor activities like biking, hiking, and water sports
- Three full mornings of intensive instruction
- Two-hour late-afternoon brainstorming discussions
- One half-hour private consultation with Susanne
- Afternoons to write and explore the area
- Gourmet breakfast and lunch buffet (see details further down)
- Option of private or shared bedrooms for each attendee (some private/some shared baths, limited availability for each option, so book early to get the room choice you want)
- Spouse (non-attendee) can come for additional fee
- Wi-Fi Internet
- Hot tub and game room
- Maximum 14 attendees (not including spouses)
- Additional marketing and publishing session to help answer your questions about traditional and self-publishing options.

Links to property:

<https://www.vrbo.com/21011>, <http://www.tahoewoods.com/lakeview.html>





“Susanne Lakin’s retreat for writers at Lake Tahoe was the best one I’ve ever attended. I haven’t regretted going for one moment. It was money well-spent.”

—Janice Hopkins, author of Cleared for Planting

SCHEDULE:

Wednesday: Arrive after 4 pm to settle in. Meet and Greet orientation and introductions with hors d’oeuvres and drinks. Go out on the town for dinner, a late show, walk along the lake, or get to work on your writing in a quiet nook in the house.

Thursday-Saturday: Gourmet Breakfast (and yes, lots of coffee!). Intensive workshop and instruction **9-noon**. DIY lunch buffet. **Afternoon:** personal writing session and assignments on your own WIP. 4-5: group discussion and brainstorming what you’ve been working on. **Evenings:** open to hang out, order a pizza, dine in town, hit the casinos for some black jack or a show, take a hot tub, walk the lakeshore.

Sunday: Breakfast and retreat wrap-up. Check out of house by 10 a.m.

Some of the material covered in sessions:

- How to develop an idea into a full-fledged novel
- Ways to brainstorm and map out plot, characters, settings, themes—all novel components
- How to create and develop meaningful subplots in your story
- Understanding basic novel structure, and how the “hero’s journey” structure parallels and differs from the “lover’s journey” in romance novels
- How to tailor writing style and structure to the genre you’re writing in
- How to create rich, believable characters who are intrinsically tied in with their setting

COST (choices are limited— first come, first served, so book early!):

- Single attendee, private bedroom, king bed, private bath: \$1,199 (4 available)
- Single attendee, private bedroom, queen bed, private hallway bath: \$1,099 (1 available)
- Single attendee, private bedroom, queen bed, shared bath: \$999 (1 available)
- Single attendee, shared bedroom (2 twins and 2 fulls), en suite bath: \$799 (1 available)*
- Single attendee, shared bedroom (4 twins), dedicated bath: \$799 (1 available)*

*We will assign attendees of the same gender to these rooms, which may or may not fill up. Bring friends and share the room together!

Add spouse (includes food): \$200

For between \$200-300 a night (which is what you’d have to pay for just one nice hotel room at Lake Tahoe), you get lodging, two meals a day, and hours of instruction. It’s a deal!

Guests must arrange their own transportation. Shuttles are available from the Reno Airport to South Lake Tahoe casino area (We’ll pick you up from there—and there will be plenty of vehicles and drivers to provide rides into town if you don’t want to bring your car).

PAYMENT AND POLICIES: *Full payment due upon booking.* Once you have paid, no refunds will be issued for cancelling unless we can find someone to take your spot from the wait list, and if so, you will get a full refund less the \$200 cancellation fee (no guarantee we will be able to fill your spot).

Spouse can be added and additional fee paid anytime before July 15. Payments made via PayPal to writingforlifeworkshops@gmail.com.

Maximum 14 attendees, so book now! Contact Susanne at cslakin@gmail.com to ensure there is space available.

If you plan to attend, access the online required questionnaire to [fill out HERE](#). Upon completion, email to cslakin@gmail.com.



If we are booked up, we can put you on a wait list. You will be contacted if any space becomes available.

“The 2015 Lake Tahoe writer's retreat was an incredible experience. Whether you are a beginner, an established writer, a published author, or are looking for a quiet place of magnificent beauty far from the demands and pressures of daily life, you will appreciate all that this retreat has to offer. Everything met and exceeded my expectations; from accommodations, the gourmet meals, expert training and consultation, and the priceless friendships that continue to this day.”

—Dawn Mattox, author of The Advocate series

“Susanne’s writer’s retreat is a fantastic opportunity to hone your skills along with other writers in a wonderful and supportive environment. The classes are concise, informative, and open you to ideas you may not have considered. I recommend the retreat for anyone serious about improving and enhancing their abilities to create their best stories. All that being said, it’s also a lot of fun with a lot of great people.”

—Jon Duncan



“The writers’ retreat led by Susanne Lakin was an inspiring experience for me. She crafted her teaching sessions to accommodate the various levels and genres of writers that were represented; everyone gained a tremendous amount of knowledge and revelation to apply to his or her works in progress. Staying in the spacious house all together provided the perfect atmosphere for both collaboration and solitude, and the scenery of Lake Tahoe was refreshing and inspirational. I highly recommend this opportunity to any writer, wherever you are in your journey.”

—Leah Rattray



C. S. Lakin is the best-selling author of sixteen novels and six writing craft books (The Writer’s Toolbox Series). Her award-winning blog Live Write Thrive provides in-depth instruction for novelists on craft, marketing, publishing, and the writing life. She works full-time as a writing coach and copyeditor, specializing in manuscript critiques (more than 200 a year). She loves helping authors create terrific novels and seeing them hit the best-seller lists. She lives in Morgan Hill, California, with her husband, three cats, and one ginormous lab.