

Kat Lewis
Writer | Educator
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Career Profile

I am a video game writer with three years of university teaching experience. At the University of South Florida, I designed and taught upper-level creative writing courses. I am also the founder of [Craft with Kat](#), a bestselling Substack newsletter with practical craft lessons for writers. My pedagogy is informed by my professional experience in the game and publishing industries.

Since completing my MFA, I have published literary short stories, written 20+ craft lessons for 1,300 subscribers, and designed narratives for two video games. Now, I look forward to using my professional experience to teach university students how to write captivating stories.

Career Highlights

Fiction Writing

I write comedy, literary fiction, and speculative fiction. Examples for each genre are linked below.

- Comedy, "[The Bylaws of Male and Female Friendships](#)," *Khôra* Issue 5, online (2021)
- Literary Fiction, "[Breathe for Them Both](#)," *TriQuarterly* Issue 160, online (2021)
- Speculative Fiction, "[물귀신 | Mul Gwishin](#)," *The Offing*, online (2021)

Game Writing

At Delabs Games, I wrote game scripts and directed voice actors. Video examples are linked below.

- [Space Frontier](#), Voice Dubbing Behind the Scenes (2023)
- [Rumble Racing Star](#), Voice Dubbing Behind the Scenes (2023)

Teaching

I write fiction craft lessons for 1,300 subscribers and repurpose craft lessons for threads on X (Twitter).

- [Freytag Who? A New Plot Diagram](#), the first craft lesson I teach in my fiction courses
- [How to Use Game Design to Write Better Scenes](#), a lesson on scene craft
- [How Writing Video Games Made Me a Better Novelist](#), an educational thread on X (2M Views)

Education

University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida (2021)

MFA, Creative Writing, Fiction

Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland (2016)

B.A., Writing Seminars, Fiction and Screenwriting

Academic Appointments

University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Instructor of Record (2019 - 2021)

- Undergraduate Courses: Composition I, Composition II, Form and Technique of Fiction, Fiction I: Novel Writing.

University of San Francisco, San Francisco, California

Teaching Assistant (2018)

- Undergraduate Course: Senior Seminar in Creative Writing

Select Publications

Essays

“[To the Kitchen Staff at 초밥 사랑 \(Chobap Sarang\)](#),” *Off Assignment*, online (2021)

“[On Anger, Autism, and Blackness](#),” *The Rumpus*, online (2020)

Fiction

“Death Dream,” *Fairy Tale Review*, print (2022)

“[Eat You Whole](#),” *Saints+Sinners*, print (2022)

“[Sadly Enough](#),” *Aquifer: The Florida Review Online*, online (2021)

“[Boarding School Fragments](#),” *Wigleaf*, online (2021)

“[Breathe for Them Both](#),” *TriQuarterly* Issue 160, online (2021)

“[Magnanimity](#),” *Khôra* Issue 8, online (2021)

“[Absolutely Not An Autobiographical Account](#),” *Khôra* Issue 7, online (2021)

“[Your Future Self Is a Stranger](#),” *Khôra* Issue 6, online (2021)

“[The Bylaws of Male and Female Friendships](#),” *Khôra* Issue 5, online (2021)

“[물귀신 | Mul Gwishin](#),” *The Offing*, online (2021)

“[Hip Deep in the Chesapeake](#),” *The Offing*, online (2021)

“[외계인 | Waygyein](#),” *Cincinnati Review*, *MiCRo* feature, online (2020)

“The Road So Black and Narrow,” *PANK Magazine* Issue 14, print (2019)

Poetry

[“It’s Not Like I Want to Be a Bad Dog Owner,”](#) *Noyo Review*, online (2021)

“Good Shit,” *Third Wednesday* Vol. IX, No. 4, print (2016)

“Momentary,” *Third Wednesday* Vol. IX, No. 4, print (2016)

“Sully’s Hair,” *Third Wednesday* Vol. IX, No. 4, print (2016)

Awards and Fellowships

Phillips Exeter Academy, George Bennett Fellowship, Semi-Finalist (2023)

Best Microfiction, Anthology Inclusion (2022)

Saints + Sinners Literary Festival Fiction Contest, Runner-Up (2022)

Mae Fellowship Circle (2021)

Sewanee Writers’ Conference, Randall Kenan Scholar (2021)

Tin House Teacher Residency, Finalist (2021)

University of South Florida, Ann and Edgar Hirshberg Award for Graduate Achievement (2021)

Gulf Coast Barthelme Prize, Honorable Mention, Gulf Coast, Awarded by Jenny Offill (2020)

Mendocino Coast Writers’ Conference, Novel Contest, 2nd Place, Awarded by Gabe Habash (2020)

Mendocino Coast Writers’ Conference, Voices of Diversity Scholarship (2020)

University of South Florida, Anspaugh Fiction Award (2020)

University of South Florida, Estelle J. Zbar Poetry Award (2020)

Fulbright Creative Arts Grant, South Korea (2018-2019)

Catapult Black History Month Scholarship, Finalist (2019)

Johns Hopkins University, Saul Zaentz Innovation Fund Fellowship (2016)

Rhodes Scholarship Finalist, The Rhodes Trust, District VII (2016)

Presentations

“Occult Studies 101: Monsters in Western and Korean Folklore,” US Embassy American Center Korea (2019)

“*Field of Mosquitoes*: A Novel about Ghosts in Korean Folklore,” Fulbright Korea Conference (2019)

Conferences

“Game On with Polygon and *Rumble Racing Star*,” Playtest MC, Game Developers Conference (2023)

“Monsters, Marvels, and Melanin: A Discussion of Black Speculative Fiction,” Moderator, AWP (2019)

“Escaping the Slushpile: How to Get Agents, Fellowships, Publications, and More,” Panelist, Other Words Conference (2019)

Additional Work Experience

Delabs Games, Seoul, South Korea

Delabs Games is a game developer and publisher led by Joonmo Kwon, the former CEO of Nexon. My responsibilities included game writing, localization, and content creation for social media accounts.

Writer (2022 - present)

Chungdahm Learning, Seoul, South Korea

Chungdahm Learning is an elite English-language academy for elementary and middle school students. My responsibilities included lesson planning, classroom management, and English-language instruction.

English Instructor (2021 - 2022)

The Fulbright Program, Seoul, South Korea

During my Fulbright, I conducted research at Korea National University of Arts and wrote a novel. My novel went on to win the University of South Florida's Anspaugh Fiction Award.

Creative Arts Grantee (2018 - 2019)

Language

Korean, Professional Working Proficiency

Service

Advisor, *Off Assignment* Advisory Board (2023 - present)

Scholarship Judge, Mendocino Coast Writers' Conference (2021)

Advisor, Occult Research Society, University of South Florida (2019 - 2021)

Juror, Best of the Net Poetry (2020)

References

Dr. Heather Sellers, Professor of English, University of South Florida, sellersh@usf.edu, (727) 318-9379

Dr. John Fleming, Professor of English, University of South Florida, johnfleming@usf.edu,

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