

William Kennedy  
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Albany, New York 12222

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Dear Mr. Kennedy -

Please accept my gratitude for providing the opportunity for me to participate in the New York State Writers Institute's Fall 1997 Le Anne Schreiber workshop. It was a remarkable experience for me and I found Ms. Schreiber to be an extraordinary teacher. Now, two weeks after our final workshop meeting, I am still marveling at her comprehensive intelligence, her masterful and insightful precision, her graceful guidance of the writers' group, her generosity.

I'm wondering if there might be some way you could arrange to have Ms. Schreiber at SUNYA more frequently. Is this a possibility? I realize you will probably have to woo her away from a long line of suitors and she may not now be available but I do wish you'd give it a try. Le Anne is a unique and highly gifted treasure, perfectly suited, it seems to me, to your own innovative, powerful, yet sensitive way of doing things with the Writers Institute and with your own extraordinary art.

Not only is Le Anne Schreiber a virtuoso instructor and author, Mr. Kennedy, but she astounds me with her selflessness and with her rare capacity to be fully present, absolutely attentive whether in conversation or explaining a point to the group or with one of our manuscripts. She appears to enter into the moment - the manuscript at hand for discussion, for instance - walking around in it, breathing it in, discerning inroads and road blocks, then guiding each of us in our own particular language. Le Anne sees clearly to the heart of a piece of writing and to what is required for it to beat in a rhythm that will make it most abundantly alive. Because she sees the work and its possibilities so exquisitely, she is matchless in making available techniques, resources and approaches that will enhance both the work and the writer's skill. All without ruffling a feather. Not a writer in the workshop wasn't blown away by this singular - almost spooky - quality of Le Anne's. I do hope you can find a way to maintain Ms. Schreiber's consistent presence within the SUNYA community. We can all only benefit from such a gift.

Again, thank you so much for including me in the writers' workshop. My thanks also to your kind and supportive office staff who each continue to assist writers and students in innumerable ways, many times beyond the call of their official job descriptions, I'm sure.

I wish you continued success, Mr. Kennedy, with the New York State Writers Institute and with your own unparalleled, life-affirming writing.

My very best regards,

  
P Cody Collett