



# One-on-One

## 30 Minute Critique Sessions with an Expert Editor

*During the 15th Annual CityLit Festival*

**Do you have a memoir, story, screenplay, or poetry sitting in a drawer or deep in your hard drive that shows promise?**

For \$10, you have an opportunity for a professional author, editor, poet to sit down with you for a 30-minute, one-on-one in-depth critique. Editors will read your work, offer comments, suggestions, and answer any questions you have to take your work to the next level.

*“Making love to me is amazing. Wait, I meant: making love, to me, is amazing.  
The absence of two little commas nearly transformed me into a sex god.”*

*Dark Jar Tin Zoo, Love Quotes for the Ages. Specifically Ages 19-91*

### EDITOR BIOS

**LAURA BALLOU** is a teacher, writer, military wife, and mother from Northern Virginia. Her screenplays have placed as a Second Round Winner at the Austin Film Festival Screenplay Competition and a quarter finalist in the Page International Screenplay Competition, among other honors. She has written movie reviews for the Examiner.com, and writes screenplays when she isn't teaching eighth graders English at Francis Scott Key Middle School.

**BETSY BOYD** is a fiction writer, journalist, and copywriter. She is a faculty member in the Creative Writing and Publishing Arts MFA program at the University of Baltimore, and is the recipient of a Maryland State Arts Council award, an Elliot Coleman Writing Fellowship, a James A. Michener Fellowship, and others. Betsy's fiction has been published most recently in *Sententia*, *Shenandoah*, *Eclectica*, *Del Sol Review*, and *Loch Raven Review*. Her short story "Scarecrow" received a Pushcart Prize. She edits a creative nonfiction series at *Baltimore Fishbowl*.

Poet and journalist **celeste doaks** is the author of *Cornrows and Cornfields* (Wrecking Ball Press, UK, 2015). She is also the editor of, and contributor in, the poetry anthology *Not Without Our Laughter: Poems of Humor, Joy, and Sexuality* (Mason Jar Press, 2017). *Cornrows* was listed as one of the "Ten Best Books of 2015" by *Beltway Quarterly Poetry*. Her poem "For the Chef at Helios..." received a 2015 Pushcart Prize nomination. Her

journalism has appeared in *Huffington Post*, *Village Voice*, *Time Out New York*, and *QBR* (Quarterly Black Book Review). Her poems are published in multiple on-line and print publications.

**KAREN HOUPPERT** is the author of *Chasing Gideon: The Elusive Quest for Poor People's Justice*, about the country's troubled public defender system, *Home Fires Burning*, chronicling a year in the life of military wives with husbands deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan, and *The Curse*, which examines the culture of concealment surrounding menstruation. Her reporting has appeared in publications, including *The Washington Post Magazine*, *Newsday*, *The Nation*, *The New York Times*, *Salon*, *Slate*, *Mother Jones*, *Ms* and *The Baltimore Sun*. Former staff writer for *The Village Voice*, she has been a reporter for *Urbanite* and *The Washington Post Magazine* and an editor of *Baltimore City Paper*. She is the Associate Director of the MA in Writing Program at Johns Hopkins University.

**BRET McCABE** has been an arts and culture reporter, critic, and a freelance features writer and editor over the past 20 years. His work has appeared in the *Baltimore City Paper*, *Dallas Observer*, *BmoreArt*, *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, among other magazines, newspapers, and websites. He was a 2010 finalist for the Nieman Foundation for Journalism Arts & Culture Fellowship and a 2010 fellow at the NEA Arts Journalism Institute in Classical Music and Opera at Columbia University. He is the senior humanities writer at the Johns Hopkins Magazine.

**April 14, 2018**

University of Baltimore

William H. Thumel Sr. Business Center  
11 W. Mount Royal Avenue  
Baltimore, MD 21201

10:00 am      11:00 am  
10:30 am      11:30 am

### Laura Ballou

Prefers reading manuscripts by email  
or during session  
*Screenwriting*

### Betsy Boyd

Prefers having the manuscripts by email  
*Fiction & Memoir*

### celeste doaks

Prefers having the manuscripts by email  
*Poetry & Fiction*

### Karen Houppert

Prefers reading manuscripts during session  
*NonFiction & Memoir*

### Bret McCabe

Prefers having the manuscripts by email  
*NonFiction, Memoir & Fiction*

**\$10 per session**

Tax-Deductible Online Donation \*

### Guidelines

Five pages of poetry OR  
Five pages of prose:

- Double-spaced
- 12 pt. font
- 1 inch margin
- Numbered pages
- Name must be included

*(If you are feeling ambitious, please know only the first five pages will be critiqued!)*

**\* Registration Required! Go to [www.CityLitProject.org](http://www.CityLitProject.org)**

Follow links to make a \$10 donation. In the comment section, add your requested editor and genre. If required, let us know the expected date of your submission. (Email submissions by April 6th to: [info@citylitproject.org](mailto:info@citylitproject.org)... Subject line should read "One on One")