

# Writers in Stuttgart Meeting Minutes July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023

**Chair:** Barbara (online)

**Minutes:** Andrea

**Attendees:** Jadi, Erica, Andrea, Barbara, Katharine, Jim, Diatra (new member from Indonesia)

**Meeting time:** 10:00am – 12:35pm

**#1: Celebration of Jadi's success:** Barbara and all Writers in Stuttgart celebrate Jadi's success as a prize winner of San Francisco Literature festival

**#2: Prompt:** Something is out of place and doesn't belong where it is. (by Erica)  
Shared prompts by Barbara, Jadi, Katharine, Jim, Erica, Andrea, Diatra

## **#3: Round of introductions**

**Diatra:** new member: from Jakarta, Indonesia. Has been living in Stuttgart for five years after getting her Bachelor's in Essen, she did her Master in Stuttgart (opera singer, kids' choir leader)

**#4: Book recommendation:** Katharine recommends the novel "If I Survive You" by Jamaican-American author Jonathan Escoffery

## **#5: Round of critiques:**

### 1. Barbara: "New Blues" (tentative title)

Will the poem fit in with the reading theme for October 2023?

This poem is pondering the misery of not being able to write. The idea is to create a poem that is undone, unfinished, incomplete on purpose, Barbara explains. She is asking how she as a poet who is not able to write a poem because of the present circumstances.

Poems draw from a person's emotion and can't be produced by Artificial Intelligence, which is

why in Barbara's point of view all humans should be writing for originality.

Jadi suggests adding the speaker's voice, i.e., by saying "I am not writing a poem" rather than

"This is not a poem".

### 2. Erica: "My Life in Cars"

Erica's story about her driving accidents in several different cars. The ditch seems to hold a better future. A car is not a toy. Six hours of waiting for help. Broken ribs; a cough. Her brush with death. Taking off in Dave's car, realizing not being invisible.

→ Does the present tense work?

→ Good enough for a contest?

→ Would any of the pieces need to be cut off?

"piss and moan" (New York American English; also a song title) or "bitch and moan" (General American English)

Last sentence → discussion on what sentence should end the story. "At least I am not invisible."?

**#6: Dark Monday Reading: January 2024:**

Jadi suggests we should start thinking about a theme/topic for that event.

**#7: August meeting in Vaihingen an der Enz on 12<sup>th</sup> August:**

Barbara is inviting the Writers in Stuttgart to her office space in Vaihingen an der Enz. Members who are interested in meeting: Barbara, Jadi, Diatra. Jim prefers for everyone to meet on ZOOM. After some discussion, the August meeting is now going to be purely on ZOOM.

**#8: Reminder of meeting dates:**

August 12, September 16, October 14, November 11, December 9, 2023.