

September 24, 2024

To Whom It May Concern:

As a former student of Suzanne Nielsen's, I am writing this letter on her behalf. I should mention that I first met Suzanne while working in the Metropolitan State University mailroom (where I still work.) Her visits to the mailroom were not long, but by the time she left she had infused my work area with energy, joy, and enthusiasm. As I became aware of her unique and extraordinary personality, and knowing that she was a published writer, I became curious about her creative output. I began reading her short works of fiction and poems, becoming additionally impressed.

My creative interests are in drawing and writing short fiction, so when I saw that Suzanne was co-teaching a graphic novel class with Beverly Hill, I registered immediately. I was filled with trepidation back then, as I had not been in a university classroom in 45 years, a time before computers were commonplace. So, I purchased a laptop and began attending online classes (Covid was raging.) My learning curve as a student was mountain-high, but Suzanne's enthusiasm was infectious; and experiencing how she gave her all to her students motivated me to give my all in the class. Joyfully.

After 45 years of creative dormancy, I now write and draw every day, using techniques and exercises from the second class I took from her (WRIT 358: 1,000 Words or Less.) Free writing and working from prompts have been especially useful for my fiction, strategies we practiced weekly throughout the semester.

I can state without reservation or hyperbole: if I named individuals who have permanently and affirmatively affected my life, Suzanne's name would be high on the list.

Sincerely,

Ron Miller