

Letter of Endorsement

Vienna, July 30, 2015

for Linda Seger

When I met Linda two years ago in fall 2013 I was a first-timer, a total beginner, a greenhorn in screenwriting. Yes, I'd been a writer, reporter and producer for television for almost 30 years, and I still am, but my dream of getting a feature screenplay on paper had been unfulfilled up until then. I needed guidance. I had read the classics on how to write a script and I did a lot of research on the web, I devoured original screenplays by the dozens to get a feeling for their structure and form. I had ideas ... good, even original ideas for stories, but no know how. It was actually very frustrating to find, that my writing routine and experience of so many years (I've also written 3 popular science books) didn't help me a bit, when trying to get my first screenplay going.

I pondered going to university or taking courses, but I also knew that I profit most in one-on-one-teaching situations ... so I was looking for a mentor/ teacher, some one to take me by the hand.

A friend of mine told me of a friend of his, Edi Ehrlich, an Austrian writer and movie director, who knew Linda from a seminar she gave in Tirol in 2005. He hooked us up and I flew to Colorado to work with her for a few days. All I had with me was a rough story outline, a bunch of index cards with the scenes I had in mind, Linda's book, Making a Good Script Great, and high hopes, of course. Needless to say, I was brimming with anticipation, because I knew Linda only as a big name on a very short list of true experts in script consulting.

Every writer knows, writing is a highly emotional process, so a lot of it is about the vibe, the ambience to get into the flow. So here I found myself in a cozy historic log home in the scenic Rocky Mountains, sitting by the fireplace with my host, working on my story! I was in heaven - for several reasons: I know very few people who are as enthusiastic about stories and storytelling as Linda Seger. From the moment I told her my story she liked it ... no, she loved it ... I could tell because she immediately came up with wonderful ideas to strengthen the main characters and keep me from sidetracking. She mercilessly weeded out the unnecessary side lines, like a skillful gardener who gets rid of the ramblers that suffocate the flowers, giving air and space to the core of my story. No curlicues, no frippery, instead strong lead characters with a strong female voice and a story with a strong, sustainable backbone, oh, yes - so here was my story outline. Ready to get written after just a few days.

Linda has something like clairvoyance or an x-ray sight for narratives. Sometimes she came up with a brilliant solution for a problem in the story, some incoherence, after she had slept on it. So when we met in the morning

over a mug of self brewed coffee to start work, she would say, you know, I thought about this last night and the solution came to me in the morning. Wow! So it was clear, that she had totally immersed herself into my story – not only during our working hours. She is a professional enthusiast! That impressed me deeply because, like children, stories need someone to believe in them to thrive and develop into the best possible outcome. Apart from Linda’s professionalism, seeing at a glance what works and what doesn’t, what’s missing and what I should get rid of, the thing that really took my breath was her zest for storytelling and her 100 percent dedication to my project.

No matter what eventually becomes of my script, whether it will make it into a good movie or never hit the screen at all, working with Linda was so much better than what I had been hoping for so that I can only sum it up as writers bliss: she shared her wealth of experience and expertise with me freely, where others guard theirs fiercely like a hidden treasure, she took me and my intentions as a writer seriously, encouraging me to pursue my plan, she gave my script undivided attention and a sound grooming – after several rewrites across the pond – she had turned my initially muddy and vague idea into a good, original, surprising piece of reading.

Therefore, I can’t thank you enough, Linda. For your guidance, experience, your structuring hand and zeal for screenplays! I’m forever hooked ...

Sabina Riedl

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Sabina Riedl is a TV writer and producer based in Vienna, Austria. She grew up in North Carolina and has always dreamt of becoming a screenwriter. With Linda Seger’s help she finished her first script „The Black Heir“ and they have started working on a second one.